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FILLING THE FIELD.

THE President and Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of the Orange River Colony, whose headquarters are at Bloemfontein, have adopted THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST as the official organ of the Society, and this journal will accordingly be supplied to all the members from January 2, 1904. This makes another of the red parts on the map of the world on which we may mark "C. & D. official." As a market now and for the future British South Africa is one of the best, and the Pharmaceutical Societies in every one of the Colonies have adopted THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST as their official organ.

OUR WINTER ISSUE.

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of January 30, 1904, will be the Winter Issue.

It will be bound in a specially designed and original cover, printed in colours and gold.

The method of production and distribution enables us to accept circulars and price-lists for insertion in it, as insets, which will thus be submitted to 12,000 of the best buyers of druggists' goods.

The Winter Issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is one which no advertiser with goods to sell to chemists and druggists, both wholesale and retail, should fail to be represented in, either by displayed advertisement or inset. For full particulars apply to the Publisher, C. & D., 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Summary.

THE LATEST STORE PRICES (mostly advances) are mentioned on p. 33.

CAMPHOR is dear, and will be still dearer, for the reasons given in an editorial on p. 53.

THE QUESTIONS set for the Major Pharmaceutical Examination in London this month are printed on p. 48.

MR. CARTEIGHE has (in marked contrast to the Somerset House matter) reported to the Pharmaceutical Council what transpired at the Board of Education's Conference (p. 47).

THE rapid estimation of mercury by means of hypophosphorous acid was discussed by Mr. B. F. Howard before the Society of Chemical Industry on Monday evening (p. 57).

AT LIVERPOOL, on Wednesday, the Anglo-American Food Company were fined 5*l.* and ten guineas costs for selling extract of beef containing about half its weight of yeast extract (p. 58).

SULPHOBENZOATE OF SODIUM is the name which Dr. Hugh Woods gives to a compound made by the interaction of sodium formate and sulphocarbonyl. He describes it in an article on p. 56.

"XRAYSER" deals with Mr. Boot's polemics, the medicine-stamp as a *bend sinister*, advertising prizes, and the strained relations between the Pharmaceutical Society and the B.P.C. (p. 51).

THE B.P.C. "FORMULARY" is threatened with extinction, or absorption, "by authority" of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, unless the members of the B.P.C. speak out (p. 54).

UNDER "Association Ballads" we begin a series of references to chemists' local associations, which promises to be interesting. This week's ballad is tough reading for those who know not the Doric (p. 50).

THE PHARMACEUTICAL BENEVOLENT FUND had a deficit of over 250*l.* last year, the calls upon it being exceptionally pressing. We suggest that chemists who are not annual subscribers should try to help a little (p. 54).

THE representatives of Glasgow chemists appear to have united with local grocers in regard to stamped-medicine matters. We give some particulars and the text of a circular issued by grocers. Rhondda Valley grocers are of opinion that grocers should sell proprietary medicines because chemists sell tea (p. 61).

THERE is a fairly good business-tone in drugs and chemicals for the first week of the year, and the changes outside of the drug-auctions include higher prices for cloves, lycopodium, pulv. seidlitz, soda tart, German saltpetre, pepper, and clove oil. Aniseed oil and camphor oil are firmer, and cocoa-butter is lower (p. 65).

THE writer of "Now and Then" returns to the charge, and insists that any remedy, sold by a qualified chemist, in respect to which he claims no secret or exclusive right, is exempt from stamp-duty (p. 62). We suggest that this is a principle which the Pharmaceutical Council should arrange with the Board of Inland Revenue (p. 52).

THERE are several interesting radium items this week. Lord Rayleigh's son has found the element in the iron deposit of the Bath waters. Sir Oliver Lodge lectured on the subject at Birmingham on Tuesday, and we give extracts from his observations. Mme. Curie has improved the process for isolating radium from uranium-residues; and M. Berthelot cautions us not to think that science is revolutionised by the radium-discoveries (p. 49).

THE PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL had a quiet meeting on Wednesday, a large part of the time being spent in committee. The deputation which called upon the Board of Inland Revenue said practically nothing about what the subject or results of the conference were. There was a good deal of discussion about the proposal to get the B.P.C. "Formulary" Committee to assist in preparing a book which the Society is to publish (p. 46).

"PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS."

THE volume now in the press is quite distinct from the volume now so familiar to the trade, and will supplement, not supersede, the older volume. The price of the new book is to be 10*s.*; by post, 10*s.* 6*d.* Wholesale houses are now sending orders to us for it, and retailers may order from them, to get with their goods, or direct from 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

A terrible explosion of nitroglycerin took place on January 5 at the works of the National Explosives Company, near Hoyle, Cornwall, four men being killed and one seriously injured.

Not a single sample of drugs taken at Brighton last half-year was adulterated. The samples included Friar's balsam, beeswax, camphor oil, camphor, iodine, and iron and quinine, besides various powders.

Amongst a batch of passive resisters against whom summonses were heard at Lowestoft Police Court on January 4 was Mr. Edmond Dodge, chemist and druggist. Distress warrants were issued in each case.

W. Bro. J. B. Martin, J.P.M., chemist and druggist, Helston, assisted in installing the new W.M. at the True and Faithful Lodge, No. 318, Helston, on December 29. At the banquet which followed W. Bro. Martin was specially commended as an able officer.

The Food Test Commission appointed by the United States Government reports that the use of salicylic acid in food is seriously injurious to health. It will be remembered that a series of experiments on the subject was made by Dr. Wiley, the Government analyst.

In Cornwall there is a mine in the china-clay district where as much as 80 tons of uranium ore have been raised annually during recent years. A London firm of manufacturing chemists are believed to have acquired much of the Cornish uranium deposits for the purpose of getting radium.

At Northampton, on December 31, two Walthamstow men named Sexton and Jackson respectively, were committed for trial on a charge of conspiring to obtain money by false pretences from Mr. Ebenezer Scott, chemist and druggist, of 31 Tavistock Street, Bedford, and other persons, in connection with advertisements on blotting-pads for hotels.

The Board of Agriculture's Markets and Sales Order, 1903, which comes into force on June 23 next, provides that any market-place, highway, or other premises in which markets are held, shall, before being again so used, be cleansed and disinfected and thoroughly sprinkled with a solution of carbolic acid and lime-wash. All pens, hurdles, and fittings in connection with the market are to be similarly treated.

At Bournemouth on December 31 two little girls, Rose Parton and Edith Dell, were charged with having stolen a clinical thermometer, valued at 12s. 6d., the property of Mr. C. D. Cumber, chemist and druggist, Holdenhurst Road, and also with having stolen two bottles of perfume, value 5s., the property of Mr. F. E. Bilson, pharmaceutical chemist, of Lansdowne Crescent. Evidence having been given the children were let off under the First Offenders Act.

A bank-clerk named Clarke, aged sixty-two, living in Holloway, went into Mr. W. A. Elston's pharmacy in Old Broad Street last week, and complained of feeling asphyxiated. Mr. Elston called a cab, and sent him to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, but he died on the way. The house-surgeon at St. Bartholomew's was unable to state the cause of death, and the inquest is adjourned for an analysis of the stomach-contents. Deceased's sister deposed that her brother had been in the habit of taking "drugs, pills, and lozenges to keep up his strength."

At Liverpool, on January 5, the American Express Company were fined 40s. and costs in each case, at the instance of the Dock Board, for landing a case containing dangerous goods, in the form of metal-polish, the case not being marked as containing inflammable material, and also for landing goods on a quay not being a place appointed for the purpose. The case was shipped by the Oceanic Steamship Company's *Teutonic*, and was described as "medicine." Evidence was given by officials that the stuff was highly dangerous. The

Oceanic Company, as the owners of the *Teutonic*, were also fined 1s. and 1s. costs for the technical offence of causing the same to enter the Huskisson Dock.

Electric Accumulators.

The Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, S.W., has issued a print of regulations for the manufacture of electric accumulators which he has made in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. The regulations came definitely into force on January 1, and describe the duties of the occupier of an electric-accumulator factory and the duties of the persons employed therein. Copies of the regulations may be obtained by post for 1½d. from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, E.C., or other of the King's printers.

The Necessity for Traps.

On January 2, at a meeting of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, a paper was read by Mr. H. J. Warwick (West Ham Corporation) dealing with his experiences as an inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts. Mr. Warwick said that the improvements introduced into the amended Food and Drugs Acts in 1899 had proved of considerable advantage, particularly the power to prosecute for obstructing an inspector (Sec. 16), and the abolition of the limit of twenty-eight days within which proceedings had to be instituted. There were still defective points in the Act for which remedies were much needed. The conscientious inspector in a district like West Ham, with its population of 286,000, consisting mainly of the working classes, could not satisfy his conscience under present circumstances without resorting to the laying of traps, a proceeding which was certainly undignified. To catch a vendor of milk and water a colleague of his went to a friend's house, dressed as a carpenter, with an apron on, and by this ruse obtained a sample of the milk actually under delivery, while not withholding the fact that it was for analysis. The defaulter had to go to prison, after a long immunity. If an inspector wore his uniform or, even a black coat, he would get a good sample, but not a sample of what the poor actually bought. The samples should be purchasable at any hour of the day or night.

Store-prices.

The following alterations in prices are to be noted in the price-circular of the Civil Service Supply Association (Limited) for January:

Advanced.—Savory & Moore's infants' food, 1s. 6d., 7s. 9d., and 7s. 6d. per tin; pancreatine (S. & M.), 3s. 2d. per bottle; pancreatic emulsion (S. & M.), 3s. 9d. and 6s. 9d. per bottle; Datura Tatula (S. & M.) 2s. per box; Saunders' dentifrice (S. & M.) 1s. 2d. per box, 2s. 3d. per bottle; saffron, 2s. 9d. per oz.; Bow's liniment, 2s. 4d. per bottle; Kaye's Worsdell's pills, 1s. per box; Bourgeois's poudre de riz, 2½d. per box; Maw's respirators, 3s. 6d. each; Nestlé's infant's food, 1s. 4d. per tin.

Reduced.—Eau de Cologne (opp. Julichs Platz), 11s. 6d. per case of six 4-oz. bottles; Ingram's enemas, 5s. each; household terbene soap, 5½d. per bar; starch-powder, 6d. per lb.

Empty 1-lb. citrate-of-magnesia bottles are now allowed for at the rate of 10d. per dozen.

Refitting.

The business at 124 High Street, Colchester, carried on for over thirty years by Mr. T. W. Bates, chemist and druggist, and which was acquired some time ago by Mr. William Smith, chemist and druggist, has been entirely refitted in modern style by Mr. H. Mills, chemist's shopfitter, Old Street, E.C. Mr. Smith will make the High Street premises his principal shop, the business in St. Botolph's Street being carried on as a branch.

The proprietor of Brown's Drug-stores has just completed extensive alterations and improvements in his premises in High Ousegate, York. The establishment, which was originated early last century, passed into the hands of Mr. C. M. Brown, chemist and druggist, in 1896, on the death of his father, Alderman John Brown, and increasing prosperity has induced alterations from time to time. The old premises, Nos. 24 and 25, have now been entirely rebuilt, one spacious shop taking their place. The windows are on the double bend principle, and the interiors are filled with

mirrors behind, above, and beneath. The entrance is of marble and mosaic tiling, the soffit is composed of bevelled mirrors, and the pillars in the entrance are cased and utilised for stock. The woodwork in front and inside is in dark mahogany. Counters and showcases run the full length of the shop both sides, and a very fine dispensing-screen is fixed at the extreme end. Mirrors and showcases are arranged round the iron pillars in the centre of the shop, and the ceiling is in Lincrusta. The private office, clerks' offices, staircases, photographic showroom, photographic dark-room, and other departments are each finished in the same elegant style. The building is lighted throughout with electricity, the latest pattern of Nernst lamp being used. The proprietor claims that it is one of the best-equipped pharmacies in the Kingdom.

The Grocers Claim Credit.

A communication from the Grocers' Federation respecting the medicine stamp-duty was submitted to the Preston Grocers' Association at their meeting on January 5, in which the postponement of the operation of the new conditions was referred to. It was stated further that a list of titles of non-dutiable preparations would shortly be issued. In the meantime the Federation advised members carefully to examine their stock, and where they had any doubt as to liability they should at once communicate with the manufacturers or dealers from whom they obtained the goods. Mr. Metcalf was anxious that it should be known that the extension of time was granted entirely through the action of the Federation. Mr. Walmsley said the chemists went [to Somerset House], but they did not get any answer. The Secretary (Mr. Beardurvel) said the Parliamentary Committee [of the Federation] did it, and he further claimed some credit for the Preston Association, which had taken a firm stand in the matter.

Birmingham Notes.

At the Technical School *soirée* last week several pharmaceutical students distinguished themselves by making experiments for the edification of the spectators.

The matter of apprenticeship has been to the fore this week again, and the question arises who would pay a premium when with a knowledge of elementary chemistry a lad fifteen years old can earn 8s. a week as a laboratory-assistant in the Five Ways Grammar School with advantage of getting a first-class education in science.

The "Gazette" has a whole column on the cod-liver-oil industry, trotting out the same old facts as to famine, hairy seals, small livers, and little oil, and winds up with the statement that "the intelligent little Jap sent a substance which the experts prefer to describe as 'Japanese cod-liver oil.' The ingredients have not been ascertained."

Owing to the attitude of Mr. Arthur Chamberlain towards the local brewers and wine-licence holders (including the chemists' ditto) the local Magistracy have decided to vote for another Deputy-Chairman, and the names of Mr. F. Corder Clayton and Mr. A. M. Chance were suggested. The latter was elected on Wednesday.

In the midst of Christmas festivities the aged poor are not neglected, and pharmacy does much to brighten their lives. In Nechells Messrs. Josiah Austen and A. W. Beresford (chemists and druggists) for the twenty-eighth year in succession entertained about 200 persons to the usual English festive dinner of hot roast beef and plum-pudding.

A dispute between the Oldbury Alkali-works Provident Society and seven medical men residing at Oldbury and Langley has resulted in the dispensary branch of the society being discontinued. Each of the 700 hands employed by Messrs. Chance paid 3s. a week to the dispensary branch, and the total contributions, less 1s. 6d. per member, were paid to the seven doctors who attended the families of the members. The 1s. 6d. was deducted to cover cost of trusses, eye-shades, crutches, &c., not supplied by the medical men, who, however, had to find other surgical appliances and drugs required by the employees and their families under any conditions of illness or confinement. The medical men objected to this 1s. 6d. being deducted, and as they could not come to terms with Mr. A. M. Chance and his committee, they have struck.

Chemist's Child Poisoned.

At Fenton, on January 5, Mr. H. W. Adams, County Coroner, held an inquiry concerning the death of Edgar Wright Tidswell, aged two, the son of Mr. Foster Tidswell, chemist, 78 Market Street, Fenton. The only witness called was the father of the deceased, who was greatly distressed while relating the manner of his child's death. He stated that in the afternoon he sat in the kitchen playing with the deceased, when he was called to the shop for the purpose of making some carbolic jelly for a customer in the shop for the toothache. He went at once and took down the carbolic acid, but found it frozen solid. He held it over the gas for a minute, but, there being several customers waiting, he handed it eventually to his boy, with the instruction that he should heat the bottle for a minute or two by the kitchen fire. The boy took it to the fire, and he went on serving customers in the shop. A man then wanted a prescription made up which required five or six different ingredients, and he was mixing these when the boy came into the shop and said the acid was ready, and put it on the counter. The boy then came into the shop and served a customer. The next they heard was a scream from deceased, who was standing by the sitting-room door. Witness ran to the child. Deceased, said witness, must have followed the boy right into the shop and taken the bottle up and drunk. Witness administered an emetic, and also used the antidote for carbolic, such as the doctors ordered when they came. Drs. Hughes and Griffiths attended, but the child did not recover, and died about six o'clock. The Coroner and jury agreed that it was a particularly sad case, and a verdict of death from misadventure was returned.

Sheffield Notes.

The headquarters of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in August next have been fixed at the Royal Victoria Hotel. The hotel immediately adjoins the Great Central Railway Station, and all the accommodation available has been secured by the local committee.

The Liberal Party are making strenuous preparations to re-capture the Brightowe division at the next parliamentary election, and have brought down and formally adopted Mr. J. Tudor Walters, of Leicester, as their candidate. The Divisional Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society (Mr. H. Antcliffe) has already communicated with Mr. Walters re the Pharmacy Bill, supplying him with literature on the subject, and suggesting an interview if desired. In his reply Mr. Walters says: "I have carefully read the pamphlets you were good enough to send me, and I think for the present they afford me sufficient information. If at a later stage a personal interview becomes necessary I will avail myself of your suggestion."

Poor-law Notes.

Miss F. Mogin has been appointed as dispenser by the Brentford Board of Guardians.

The Marylebone Board of Guardians have decided to make application to the Local Government Board for sanction to increase the salary of the dispenser from 170s. to 180s. per annum.

For fifteen years Dr. Potter, medical officer of the Kensington Infirmary, has kept his instruments in a cupboard situated in one of the wards, exposing them, as he told the Guardians the other day, to the disease-germs which might be in the wards. The Guardians, therefore, proposed to buy him an instrument-cabinet, at a cost of 35s. Several Guardians objected to the expenditure at first, but eventually the opposition was withdrawn, and the order for the cabinet given.

A discussion arose at a recent meeting of the Paddington Guardians on the subject of providing meat-extract for the outdoor poor in place of butcher's meat when beef-tea was ordered by the district medical officers. Dr. Forster said he did not believe in these extracts exploited by American millionaires; and the Rev. C. Dent was of the same opinion, remarking that the doctors simply ordered extracts because they were easier made into beef-tea than the real article from beef by unskilled hands. The recommendation, however, was adopted, thirteen members voting for it.

A large number of ratepayers of the Marylebone Union had an opportunity on December 23, through the invitation of the Infirmary Committee of the Board of Guardians, of seeing how Christmas is spent in the sick-wards. The decoration of the wards was entirely the work of the nurses, who were also responsible for some rather witty advice, such as "Drink water and get typhoid fever; eat oysters and get blood-poisoning; smoke cigars and get catarrh; smoke cigarettes and die young." The final admonition ran thus: "In order to be entirely healthy, eat nothing, drink nothing, smoke nothing, and even before breathing make sure that the air has been properly sterilised. For further information see the Professor."

With reference to the proposal of the Bath Board of Guardians to give power to medical officers in special cases, of ordering instead of recommending beef-tea and milk in the interim of Board meetings, or during the period of an order for ordinary relief, the Local Government Board have written that it is undesirable and unnecessary that medical officers should be thus empowered. The relief, the Board said, could be supplied in urgent cases by the relieving officer, and to empower the medical officer to order the relief would make him absolute judge not only of the kind of relief to be afforded, but of the patient's ability to provide it out of his own resources, a matter as to which no discretion was vested in a medical officer.

Charge of Burgling.

During the night of December 30 the premises of Mr. Fred Outley, chemist and druggist, of Market Street, Chorley, were broken into and goods to the value of 19s. 6d. stolen. A constable in the early hours of the next morning met a man named Roscoe whose pockets bulged considerably. The constable searched the early pedestrian and found the proceeds of the robbery. Later in the day Roscoe, who pleaded guilty, was committed for trial on a charge of shop-breaking and theft.

Threatening to Poison.

On January 4, at Wolverhampton Police Court, a man named Thomas Rooney was charged with administering salt of sorrel to a certain person. A youth named Hurst was in a public-house in company with the prisoner. The latter commenced a conversation, and said that he had had some ham and chicken and tongue at his lodgings, and somebody got up in the morning and ate it before he rose. Prisoner added that he had got some stuff for them, and produced from his breast-pocket a packet labelled "Poison." He remarked that he intended to sprinkle some of the poison on food and place it on a plate on the shelf, and they would make a grab for it and it would do them good. He also added that an ounce of the poison would kill a horse in five minutes, let alone a human being. Hurst followed Rooney when he left the house and gave information to the police, who arrested Rooney. Philip George Godsell, chemist and druggist, of 33 Bath Road, Wolverhampton, deposed to selling twopenny-worth of salt of sorrel to the prisoner to clean some old coats with. Mr. Godsell supplied Rooney with $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of the poison, which, he said, was practically oxalic acid, and if the quantity sold were mixed with a quantity of food it would probably kill anyone who ate the food. The presiding Magistrate said the facts that came out in the evidence were not sufficient to prove that an attempt was made to administer poison, the law on the subject being to the effect that a more direct attempt was necessary. The prisoner was therefore discharged.

Free Ammonia.

At St. Pancras on January 4, Mr. Walter Schroder opened an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Francis Duffield (59), of Britannia Street, St. Pancras. On the evening of Christmas Day deceased went to the Royal Free Hospital, and informed the surgeon that he had by mistake swallowed a quantity of ammonia instead of whisky. He remained an in-patient at the hospital, and died there. The widow stated that a small bottle containing ammonia was kept on the dresser in the kitchen, and next to it stood a bottle with unsweetened gin. Neither bottle bore any label, and both were of about the same size and similar shape.

The Coroner: Where was it bought?—It was not bought at all. Coupons were sent round to the houses in the neighbourhood, and on presenting these at a shop we were given a quantity of the ammonia free as an advertisement.

Whose shop was it?—It was an oilman's shop. It was given without any label.

It was stated that the liquid was a preparation of ammonia used for cleaning-purposes. The Coroner decided to adjourn the inquiry for the attendance of the shopkeeper.

The Prescribing Question.

At an inquest at Hackney on January 4 a mother stated that as her seven-months-old daughter appeared to have a cold, she was given some "vegetable balsam," purchased at a chemist's. The child was sick afterwards, and her breathing was laboured when taken to bed. Next morning the baby was found dead in bed. A doctor stated that the baby was covered with measles-rash, a fact the parents did not appear to have noticed.

In another case a child was given "syrup of buckthorn," also purchased at a chemist's. The Coroner said he could not understand people "quack doctoring." Chemists appeared to do better in that neighbourhood than doctors. The result of these quack remedies was that a doctor was not called in until the patient was near death.

A representative of the "Daily News" on the following day interviewed a member of the Pharmaceutical Society, carrying on business in the East-end, and asked for his opinion on the subject. The chemist said that in that district he had had considerable experience of the poor, who, in any little trouble, go to a chemist, and not to a doctor, and he continued:

"The majority of such people could not afford to call in a doctor, and have only a penny or twopence to spend. Generally they want something for a child or a baby. They usually say a child has a feverish cold, and ask for something for a penny or twopence."

"And what would you give for a feverish cold?"

"A little ipecacuanha-wine and syrup of squills," said the chemist, adding, "I should think that was the money's worth."

"And if you refused to sell this medicine, what would the people do?"

"They would probably wait," he answered, "until the child was very bad, and then they would go to the parish doctor, and, perhaps, very little could be done. If a child were brought to me, and I saw that it had a rash" (as was the case in the Hackney inquest), "I should advise the parents to go to a doctor. A person in receipt of parochial relief would in any case go to the parish doctor and not to a chemist, but the proud poor, who would do anything rather than apply to the parish, go to chemists in their children's ailments, and we must attend to them."

"Why do you feel that you must do so?"

"Well," replied the chemist, "from a sense of duty and humanity. These small things are not matters of profit to us."

"And do the parents come again?"

"If it were only a feverish cold," he said, "the child would probably be better after a night's rest, with the medicine given, and the parent would not come till it was unwell once more. A slight cough, too, would soon be put right."

He added that some chemists would prescribe for anything or anybody, and that others would not prescribe at all, but that he thought it was right to act as he had stated, and that he knew of no law to prevent him from doing so.

New Process for Zinc Oxide.

Sir William Ramsay gave on January 5 a demonstration at the Hafna Mines (Limited), Llanrwst, North Wales, which promises to revive a decayed industry. Many mines are now deserted, being unable to compete with American and continental importations of oxide of zinc. By a new process zinc white is now made direct from the ore without the troublesome intermediate process of producing spelter. More important still, the tailings which now lie in vast heaps around the Hafna and other mines, a valueless waste product, becomes of immense value, as they can be treated as readily as the original ore. The cost of production by this discovery is less than 50 per cent. of that by the best present methods. Sir William Ramsay and other scientists present expressed themselves entirely satisfied with the wide prospects of profits now open to the zinc-mines in Wales. The process briefly is the solution of wasted ores by an admixture of sulphuric acid. Then ammonia is added, precipitating the hydrate of zinc. This is then subjected to intense heat in a muffled furnace.

London Society of Corporate Accountants.

At a meeting of accountants held on December 22 it was decided to found the above Society in connection with the Corporation of Accountants. Mr. J. H. Worrall, addressing the meeting, explained that the Corporate Accountants owed their existence as such to a Scottish society, and it was now thought opportune to form a society in London. The Society prescribes the use of the letters "C.R.A.," meaning "Corporate Registered Accountant," and this is not likely to cause friction with other similar societies of accountants. Mr. Walter Bean, 174 and 175 Aldersgate Street, E.C., was elected President, and has offered to place his offices at the service of the Society.

The Week's Poisonings.

Ten deaths from poisoning have taken place during the week, five being misadventures. Oxalic acid and laudanum had three victims each. John Chivers, a St. Albans publican, procured some carbolic acid from Boots (Limited) on the pretext that he required it for cleaning purposes. The acid was supplied by Mr. Charles Jenkin, Messrs. Boots' manager, and he warned the suicide of its dangerous character.—A Preston Baker named Walmsley, who had been drinking heavily, also took oxalic acid, and died.—At Hammersmith, on January 2, Coroner Drew investigated a strange case of suicide, a young girl named Bilham (21) taking a strong solution of oxalic acid after being abandoned by her lover, a married man. Evidence was given by William Copham, an assistant to Messrs. Bell & Co., chemists and druggists, of 335 King Street, Hammersmith. He proved the sale of the poison to the deceased, who stated that she wanted it for cleaning brass.—At Hammersmith, on January 4, the same Coroner inquired into the death of John Cooper (50), a hose maker. The deceased's son had procured some chromic acid from an electrician for use in a battery, and on Christmas Eve made a solution of the acid to drive a small motor-toy. The acid was in a small glass jam-jar resembling a tumbler, and was placed on the mantelpiece. The deceased, on returning at night, thought it was stout, and drank some of the contents before he discovered his mistake. He subsequently died from shock.—At Sunderland the mother of a child sixteen days old gave it two drops of laudanum "because it was cross." The child died from opium-poisoning, but the mother was exonerated from intention to do harm.—Frederick Bracey, of Derby, died from laudanum-poisoning, two empty laudanum-bottles being discovered beneath his bed.—A young woman, named Lizzie Scarsbrooke, poisoned herself with laudanum at Berkswell Hall, Coventry, because of some misunderstanding with her lover.—The sad poisoning of Mr. Tidswell's child is referred to elsewhere.—A woman, named Culham, residing at New Cross, drank hydrochloric acid in mistake for whisky, and died from shock.—Samuel Pilkington, a Birmingham waggon-repairer, mistook a bottle containing liniment for one containing cough-mixture. He swallowed some of the lotion, which consisted of aconite, belladonna, and chloroform, and was used for rheumatism, and died soon after. At the inquest on Wednesday the jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Tenders.

The Governors of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, will receive tenders for drugs and surgical bandages on or before January 13.

The committee of the Cork Fever-hospital invite tenders for medicines and medical appliances for six months. Tenders are to be sent in by January 13.

Technical Education.

In the pharmaceutical department of the Belfast Municipal Technical Institute a new class has been opened for practical chemistry, pharmaceutical botany, and materia medica.

Extended Credit.

The L.G.B. have written to the Oldcastle Board of Guardians stating that they have made an order extending the time within which they may pay any part of the salary of Sir Charles Cameron, drug-analyst, due on September 30, 1903, to a time not exceeding two years from the period at which such sum became due.

Business Items.

Mr. John Evans, pharmaceutical chemist, Dawson Street, Dublin, has obtained authority to use the Royal arms and to style himself "By appointment to the late Queen Victoria."

Mr. E. E. Wolfe, pharmaceutical chemist, has taken over Dr. Vickery's Medical Hall at Fisher Street, Kinsale. Mr. Wolfe announces that his experience of pharmacy extends to South Africa.

Tobacco as Medicine.

At the meeting of the Kilkill Guardians last week a recommendation came up from the doctor to supply tobacco to certain inmates, but some of the Guardians objected to the proposal. The doctor then said he had been asked to certify that these people need tobacco. He could not conscientiously recommend tobacco as a medicine, but the responsibility had been placed on his shoulders, and he would like to be relieved of it. It was decided not to give the tobacco.

Administering Cantharides.

At the trial of Stephen Morton, at Ballinamore, co. Leitrim on December 31, for the alleged murder of Bridget Maher Mr. W. Burns, druggist, Ballinamore, stated that he sold the accused a quantity of cantharides on December 1. He remarked, when selling it to the accused, that it would raise a lot of blisters, but the latter replied that the man who required it knew how to use it. The woman Maher died from poison administered in a glass of rum. Dr. Lapper, analyst, Dublin, found but little poison in the body, but he found the drug in abundance in the vomit.

Suspected Poisoning.

On January 4, Mr. John Elliott, Coroner for the Strabane district, opened an inquest with reference to the deaths of two children, who died the previous day with symptoms of narcotic poisoning. The Coroner adjourned the inquest, in order that Mr. Robert Barklie, analyst, Belfast, might examine the contents of the children's stomachs.

Another Try.

Mr. Wm. McCarthy, pharmaceutical chemist, has been nominated for one of the Clontarf wards of the Dublin Corporation in connection with the forthcoming municipal elections. In a recent by-election Mr. McCarthy was only defeated by about thirty votes by Mr. Lyon, Secretary of the Family Grocers' Association, Dublin.

An Insurance-policy.

At Londonderry Quarter Sessions, Mr. Joseph Sheppard, chemist, Waterside, Derry, sued the Postmaster-General for the recovery of 49*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* for illegal detention of a Government policy of insurance. It appeared that some years ago the plaintiff insured his life with the Savings Bank Department of the Post Office. In 1894 he assigned the policy to Mr. Henry Lane, in consideration of his paying plaintiff a sum of 24*l.*, and on Mr. Lane's death his executors handed over the policy to the Postmaster-General, receiving 23*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* for it. The Recorder held that the policy was legally surrendered, and he dismissed the case.

Scotch News.

Business Changes.

Mr. Wm. Melrose, chemist and druggist, has acquired the business of the late Mr. J. Docker, in Hamilton Street, Greenock.

The partnership between Mr. William Stewart and Mr. James Smith Paterson, chemists and druggists, carrying on business at 95 King Street, Castle Douglas, under the style

of "Paterson & Stewart," has been dissolved by the retiral of Mr. James Smith Paterson. The business will be continued by Mr. William Stewart under the old firm-name.

Dundee Notes.

Messrs. Russell & Son, chemists, Nethergate, have begun making cod-liver oil for their own retail sale. The product compares well with other brands on the market.

The latest form of "substitution" in Dundee is that practised when the lawyer's new boy comes for a pennyworth of "avizandum." Something which is said to be "just as good" is given in exchange for the penny, though the party who provides the penny does not think so.

Glasgow Notes.

At the recent examination of the British Optical Association, under the new regulations and advanced syllabus, Mr. Robert Tocher, Ph.C., 491 Victoria Road, Glasgow, passed with distinction, and was admitted a member of the Association. Mr. Tocher has just been elected President of the Glasgow Optical Society.

Mr. J. B. Surgenor, who has joined the representative staff of Messrs. T. & H. Smith & Co., London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, will represent the Glasgow branch of the firm in the West of Scotland (not the city as stated last week). Mr. Surgenor has represented Messrs. Cockburn & Co. (Limited) in the West for the past nine years, and enters upon his new duties with the best wishes of a wide circle of friends in the trade and in the medical profession.

Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association.

The presentation to Mr. C. F. Henry and Mrs. Henry will be made at a dinner of the Association, to be held in the Balmoral Hotel, Princes Street, on Friday, January 15, when Mr. and Mrs. Henry will be the guests of the evening. Tickets and full particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary (Mr. G. H. C. Rowland, 117 Princes Street). Mr. Henry retired from the secretaryship of the Association this year, after having been its main support for the eleven years of its existence. The presentation has been subscribed for amongst the members, and also by many of Mr. Henry's friends throughout Scotland, many of whom have been closely connected with Mr. Henry on the N.B. Executive.

The New Chemistry-department.

At Edinburgh University the new laboratory was opened for inspection on January 4, Professor Crum Brown received a large company of visitors, who were conducted over the numerous apartments by a staff of assistants, and were shown the apparatus, appliances, and materials with which the work of the laboratories is carried on. Since the opening of these laboratories in 1885, the number of students making a special study of chemistry has greatly increased. In the quinquennial periods between 1881 and 1903 the annual average of students has risen from 270 to 855. The number of students desiring training in the chemical laboratories having been greater on several recent occasions than the number of available working-places, and there being every reason to expect that there will be a still further increase, steps were taken early in 1903 to make an extensive addition to the present teaching-accommodation, and the new laboratory is the outcome of these steps. The extension is sufficient for forty students.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

Mr. A. MARSAN, pharmacien, Condamine, Monaco, has opened a branch pharmacy in the Boulevard des Moulins, Monte Carlo, under the managership of Mr. C. Brooks, chemist and druggist.

THE PHARMACIE CENTRALE DE FRANCE will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its existence on January 27. The Pharmacie Centrale is one of the largest and best-known of the Paris wholesale druggists, and was organised as a company by Dervault on the co-operative principle that the shareholders should be pharmacists and at the same

time the customers of the company. Its affairs have continued to prosper under the management of the present director, M. C. Buchet.

ACTION OF RADIUM ON ANIMALS.—At the last meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Roux read a paper regarding the action of radium on animals. He mentioned that if a tube containing this metal is placed in proximity to the skull of various small animals—mice, for instance—paralysis and death will ensue. If the tube were hung above a cage containing such animals the same effects result, though after a longer interval. It was noticed on examination after death that the capillaries were considerably enlarged.

VICHY LOZENGES.—A manufacturer of Vichy lozenges, who placed on his boxes the "guarantee label" and stamp of the State, was prosecuted by the Vichy Company, before the Tribunal of Commerce, at Cusset, 20,000*fr.* damages being claimed. He had, it was alleged, used the word "Grande Grille" in large letters on his boxes, and the circulars were signed "The Director of the Pastillerie," which would, the Court held, lead the public to suppose they were extracted from the waters of the "Grande Grille" spring, and manufactured under State control in the part of the thermal establishment known since 1834 by the name of the "Pastillerie." The defence was that the Court was not competent to decide a trade-mark case. This the Court admitted, but held that in this case the point at issue was that of "disloyal competition" simply. The defendant was ordered to pay 1,000*fr.* (40*fr.*) damages, *plus* the cost of advertising the judgment in ten French or foreign journals, the cost of each advertisement not to exceed 100*fr.*

A DRAMATIC NEW YEAR'S MORNING.—M. Armet de Lille's quinine-works at Rue du Port, Nogent-sur-Marne, was the scene of a sad drama on New Year's morning. Two of the workmen, named Couture and Colombel, were left as watchmen in charge of the works for the night. For the sake of warmth they installed themselves by the fire of the boiler and *fêted* the coming of the new year by liberal libations of wine and spirits. They were joined late in the evening by another man, and the three kept up a kind of orgie until the early hours of New Year's Day. Then a quarrel occurred. Couture tried to turn the visitor out, but the latter replied with five revolver-shots. Colombel, to protect his mate, struck the visitor a heavy blow with an iron bar and broke his skull, killing him on the spot. Colombel proposed burning the corpse in the boiler-oven, but Couture would not agree. A quarrel followed, and Couture ran away. Being alone Colombel dragged the corpse to the fire, but not having the strength to push it in he left it and ran away. Both the men were found later at their homes, but having rather vague reminiscences of the quarrel. The police are trying to jog their memories.

"THE DEALER IN POISONS" is the title of a novel recently written by M. Georges Ohnet, the author of the well-known "Maitre de Forges," but it is not against pharmacists that this rather aggressive title is directed, as the uninformed might easily suppose, but against distillers who launch floods of alcohol upon an all too willing world. The fact is, the popular novelist in question has begun to tread the thorny path of philanthropy, and his ready pen is now being used for denouncing alcoholism. The hero of "The Dealer in Poisons" is called Vernier-Mareuil, a distiller in a large way of business, and regarded therefore as a public poisoner, who makes a fortune by selling insidious alcoholic concoctions called "apéritifs" and various pick-me-ups. A well-known distiller near Paris considers that M. Ohnet has purposely signalled him out for mention in the book (in fact, there is little doubt on the point), and has consequently brought an action for libel against the novelist, and learned counsel, at the hearing of the case a few days ago, made interesting speeches for and against drinking alcohol. Judgment was postponed for a week, and meanwhile M. Ohnet's book is enjoying the benefits of advertisement by means of the reports of the case in the newspapers, for this is the discreet way in which advertising is frequently done in France. Judgment has now been given against the author, who is fined 500*fr.* damages. He is further ordered to suppress the word "Abricotinée" from all copies of the book sold, under a penalty of 10*fr.* per copy.

South African News.

(From our own Correspondents.)

Note.—THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is regularly supplied by order to all the members of all the Pharmaceutical Societies in British South Africa, viz :

SOUTH AFRICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF CAPE COLONY.
NATAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.
TRANSVAAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.
RHODESIA PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.
NORTHERN DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

The seventh Society has been added to this list as from January 2, 1904. The Pharmaceutical Society of the Orange River Colony is the youngest of pharmaceutical bodies in the British Empire, being just two months old, and its adoption of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST as its official organ is one more demonstration of the fact that this journal is as highly esteemed by our confrères in distant parts of the Empire as it is by chemists and druggists in the old country.

THE GENERAL MEETING of the Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Colony called for December 8 could not be held owing to the small attendance.

DURING the nine months ending September, 1903, the imports of drugs and chemicals into the Transvaal amounted in value to 403,000*l.*, against 233,000*l.* for the corresponding period of 1902.

CONTRACTS SECURED.—Mr. Alex. Cleghorn has secured the contract for the supply of medicines at Cape Town to the Cape Government Railways, also to the Civil Service. Messrs. Cameron & Hamilton, of Salt River and Observatory, have secured the railway dispensing-contract at those places, while Messrs. R. G. Darrell & Co., Wynberg and Kenilworth, have the contract for their centres.

TRANSVAAL ITEMS.—At the Johannesburg Municipal elections the only pharmaceutical candidate, Mr. M. W. Pole, of Braamfontein, was unsuccessful. The election was carried out on the ticket-system, every voter being compelled to vote for not fewer than twenty nor more than thirty candidates, which was primarily the cause of Mr. Pole's defeat, as he had the support of every voter in his own district.—Mr. G. L. Dobbin, representing Messrs. Davis & Lawrence, of Montreal, Canada, was in Johannesburg when the mail left vigorously pushing his firm's two new lines "Maltovine" and "Ferrovine."—A new pharmacy is shortly to be opened by Messrs. Morrison & Co. at Denver, a township on the reef about three miles from Johannesburg.—Messrs. Jones & Lawrie, proprietors of the Turfontein Pharmacy, have dissolved partnership, the business now being conducted by Mr. Lawrie.—A number of burglaries and attempted burglaries have recently taken place in Johannesburg. Early last month Mr. T. E. Jolly's establishment in Rissik Street was entered, and some perfumes and other goods stolen. Some weeks after an attempt was made on Mr. C. Martlew's premises, but it was unsuccessful.

Notes from Matabeleland.

NOT BY A NATIVE.

ON reading my last week's CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST (November 14) my attention was drawn to the plain-speaking "Notes and Criticisms" by a Johannesburg chemist on page 828. Perhaps a few remarks on the same lines in regard to our locality, which is not 100 miles from Bulawayo, may not be out of place. In some instances I can confirm the statements made by your correspondent, but not in others.

The American and continental houses are largely represented by huge stocks in Rhodesia. Drugs and chemicals, together with galenical and Pharmacopœia preparations, are strictly British importation, but for proprietary, toilet, and nursery requisites the sales of American and continental are three to one. And why? Because the American and continental proprietors do not waste Inland Revenue stamps on their goods, they pack their lines in a manner suitable for this climate, and, lastly, the "get-up" is more elegant and attractive than the British.

I hold no brief for American or continental firms, because I am a patriotic Britisher (born south of the Tweed); but it does seem

passing strange that my fellow-countrymen do not comply with our suggestions, when it is for the mutual benefit of both parties and not against the law. I suggest, for instance, that Mr. B—'s pills would be better and less liable to become a pill-mass by being in bottles instead of boxes, and when he does make the change for colonial export to omit the Inland Revenue stamp. Mr. B— is horrified at such a suggestion; the heavens might fall before he could entertain such an idea; uniformity must prevail at all costs.

I suggest to Mr. Gam Arabic Gelatine that his lozenges and jujubes generally arrive in pill mass form, and a little more careful drying and sprinkling well with arrowroot or with powders would be appreciated. "Piffls! I cannot be bothered with that," is the answer implied, if not expressed. Mr. Galen Unguentum should look into our ointment store-room, the coolest to be found in the tropics, and methinks he would see we do not require so much B.P. authority for his unctuous wares. Dear old Galen, do wake up! I have b'essed you many times, and my tailor has blessed you as well in another spirit.

The railway question, Custom duties, and syllabus of qualifying examinations are *sub judice*, and at present I cannot enlarge on your Johannesburg correspondent's remarks, but *spero meliora*.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Rhodesia has not been in existence nine years, but in some particulars our Society requires rejuvenescence. By recent rules we must have a meeting at least every three months; with an energetic president and executive the rule should not be allowed to glide. Your Transvaal correspondent has done "a power of good." As for your correspondent's suggestion of importing fresh blood from overseas, we are all from overseas (British qualification only tolerated), and the young blood is inoculated with the principle of "how much he can get out of the Society for the least amount of effort." We must stand shoulder to shoulder in many ways in this country or we shall come to grief, and when schism creeps in with trade-jealousies it will be a bad time for present and future pharmacists of Rhodesia. *Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis*.

Australasian News.

Chiefly from "The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia,"
December 1, 1903. 6d. per copy, post free.

A FIRE in a chemist's warehouse in Adelaide, which occurred on November 15, was caused by glycerin and potassium permanganate coming in contact through leaky containers. The damage was much limited owing to the prompt steps taken to put out the fire.

THE SWEET-NITRE PROSECUTION at Sydney is exciting considerable comment in Australia, it being the first case of the kind. As noted in the *C & D*, December 12, 1903, page 991, the Magistrates dismissed the case. It is suggested that the Chemists' Defence Fund which exists in New South Wales should take up the defence in similar instances.

NEW ZEALAND TARIFF-DECISIONS gazetted on November 3:

"Depilatory" (compound of sulphide of calcium, with free lime and excess of potash), for removing wool from sheep-skins free.

"Listerine," an antiseptic preparation, 15 per cent.

Zinc oxide, "B.P.," in bulk, as paints and colours, free.

MR. JOHN CASTLE, who has just been elected President of the Central Pharmaceutical Association of New Zealand, was born at Dover (England) in 1867. He was apprentice for four years with the late Mr. Samuel Dean, Roman Road, London, and then emigrated to New Zealand and took up farming. He returned to the drug-business, and passed his examinations in 1893, subsequently opening pharmacies at Wellington.

PHARMACY BILL, W.A.—The amending Bill, which the Pharmacy Board of W. Australia succeeded in passing through the Legislative Council, has been much mutilated by the Legislative Assembly. The three clauses cut out provided for reciprocal agreements between Western Australia and Victoria and New South Wales, the regulation of company pharmacy, and the provision of qualified managers for businesses carried on by receivers or trustees. New clauses have been added to make companies employ a qualified pharmaceutical chemist as supervisor, but the companies may not assume the personal title. The Bill passed through all its stages on November 12.

EARLY CLOSING.—The pharmacies in Launceston, Tasmania, are to be closed on Wednesdays from 1.30 P.M. to 6.30 P.M. The change began in November. The assistants paid the cost of advertising the times in the local papers, and also had the announcement printed on cards for chemists' windows and for the use of the medical men.

THE ADVERTISEMENT-TAX.—A. J. White (Limited), the proprietors of Seigel's syrup, announce that in consequence of the duty of 3*d.* per lb. on advertising-matter they do not intend in future distributing their booklets in Australia. The loss to the Government is placed at 20,000*l.* a year. The booklets cost from 10*s.* to 13*s.* a thousand in England. The company are vigorously circularising the members of Parliament about the matter.

THE P.A.T.A. MOVEMENT in Australia is making headway. A branch has been formed in Adelaide and another is proposed for Victoria. The P.A.T.A. of Great Britain is taken as the model of these new associations. The first list of protected articles has been published in New South Wales. It contains Hudson's eumenthol jujubes, Diamond dyes, Tanglefoot, Bromoseltzer, Angier's emulsion, Angier's throat-tablets, Californian syrup of figs, Capilla hair-tonic, Savory's hair-stain, and Capilla skin-soap. Mr. Louis Zions is the W. S. Glyn-Jones of Australia.

COMMONWEALTH TARIFF DECISIONS.—The following have recently been gazetted:

Lac-u-men (a face-wash), 20 per cent.
Diary and alumnac, issued by a trading-firm for advertising purposes, 3*d.* per lb., or 25 per cent., whichever higher.
Loofahs, or vegetable sponges, free.
Carbide of silicon, free.
Champanic basis, 20 per cent.
Voltoids of sal ammoniac, 15 per cent.
Amyline, for removing paint, free.
THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, a trade-journal, free.
Amyl nitrate, "B.P.," in sealed capsules, free.
Glensol, 3*d.* per lb.
Corks and metal capsules combined, 20 per cent.
Corks, with wooden tops, 20 per cent.
Mabor, free.
Rules, hydrometer, as parts of hydrometers, free.
Sinapisms or improved mustard-plasters, 15 per cent.
Tintometers, 20 per cent.
Lysol, free.
Panopepton, as sprits, or 15 per cent., whichever higher.
Barium binocide or peroxide, free.
Fly-paper. Descriptive printing thereon is not to be considered advertising-matter.
Junifloris, a preparation for preserving cut flowers, 15 per cent.
Lime-water (Chinese), 20 per cent.
Sprague hot-air apparatus, for legs and arms, free.
Atomisers manufactured by Whittall, Tatum Co. and the Davol Rubber Company, 20 per cent.
Spectacle-frames, Nonzoltian and German silver, free.
Soda sulphate (Glauber salts), free.

DOAN'S BACKACHE KIDNEY-PILLS.—Before the Supreme Court of Sydney during November a case of the Customs Department against Peter Britz, local manager for the Foster-McClellan Co., importers of Doan's backache kidney-pills, has been heard several times. On October 16, 1901, defendant declared the value of certain goods at 308*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The Customs placed the value at 9,728*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, and claimed that a penalty of 500*l.* had been incurred. The pills arrived in tins of 10,000 each of 7½ lbs. net weight. A small box opened by the Customs officer contained forty kidney-pills and four small dinner-pills. The shipment referred to represented 13,702 dozen boxes, valued at 10,070*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* The deductions made by the Customs officer for labour, 16*s.* per gross for boxing, wrapping, and labelling reduced the net value to 9,728*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* Peter Britz, defendant, said "Doan's backache kidney-pills" is a trade-name registered in Australia and New Zealand. Four dollars per dozen boxes would be a fair estimate of pills sold under proprietary names in America. The invoice represented the true price paid by him to the manufacturers. Sharp & Dohme are one of the largest pill-manufacturers in America, and supply the witness with these pills. He had purchased pills locally at lower prices. Out of a shipment of 6,000,000 pills 100,000 had to be thrown away as damaged. A portion of nearly every shipment is rejected for similar reasons. The pills shown to the Customs officer were known as Britz pills. They were put up in boxes of 10,000, and manufactured by Elliott Brothers. The case is still proceeding.

Business Changes.

PAGE WOODCOCK (LIMITED) have removed their London warehouse to 372 Euston Road, N.W.

MR. G. GOLDFINCH, pharmaceutical chemist, has sold his business in Brent Street, Hendon, to Mr. Sayers.

THE business of Mr. T. R. Edwards at 20 The Brittox, Devizes, will in future be known as Edwards, Chymists (Limited).

MESSRS. DUCKWORTH & Co., manufacturing chemists and essence-distillers, have removed their London office to 37 Lime Street, E.C.

MR. R. W. ROBBINS, chemist and druggist, St. Leonards Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, has opened a branch pharmacy at High Street, Old Bexhill.

MR. W. C. FORD, chemist and druggist, has disposed of his branch business at Mitcham to his manager, Mr. J. K. Harvey, chemist and druggist.

MR. W. H. CROSSLAND has taken over the business formerly belonging to Mr. F. W. Cooper, chemist and druggist, at 134 High Street, Sutton, Surrey.

BOOTS (LIMITED) are opening at London Road, Brighton—St. James's Street, Brighton, and Church Road, Hove, and they are considerably extending their premises in Western Road, Brighton.

MR. S. SMITH, chemist and druggist, Theatre Drug-stores, 58 High Street, Ramsgate, has sold his business to the Timothy White Company. The company have now two shops in Ramsgate.

THE branch business of Messrs. Savory & Moore at 83 King's Road, Brighton, has been acquired by Mr. Alfred J. Franklin, chemist and druggist, from Mr. T. Billing, a partner with the firm, who is retiring. Mr. Franklin has been upwards of twenty years with Messrs. Savory & Moore.

THE partnership existing between Mr. Adolf Muhle and Mr. Hugo Lange-de la Camp, trading as Messrs. H. L. Muhle & Co., of Hamburg, has been dissolved. Mr. Hugo Lange-de la Camp will continue the business under his own name, and Mr. A. Muhle is to interest himself in a chemical undertaking.

OWING to a dissolution of partnership Mr. Archibald Fuller Coghill has retired from the firm of H. Coghill & Son, borax manufacturers and merchants, of Liverpool and Newcastle-under-Lyme. The business will be continued by the remaining partners, Percy De Geiger Coghill, Norman Alfred Coghill, and Frank Howard Coghill.

MESSRS. CHARLES WIMBLE AND GEORGE THOMAS LACHLAN, trading as Charles Wimble & Co., produce-brokers, at 21 Mincing Lane, E.C., have dissolved partnership. Mr. Charles Wimble intends carrying on the business of general produce-brokers in partnership with his sons, Charles Frederick and Arthur Stanley, under the style of Charles Wimble, Sons & Co. Mr. G. T. Lachlan has entered into a business arrangement with Messrs. W. W. Asser & Co., 29 Mincing Lane, colonial brokers.

THE partnership of Messrs. Lewis & Peat, colonial brokers, 6 Mincing Lane, E.C., terminated on December 31, and Mr. S. S. Duval has retired. The business will be continued as heretofore by the remaining partners in conjunction with Mr. Andrew Oliphant Devitt, son of Mr. Andrew Devitt, and Mr. Arthur A. Grant. Owing to the ill-health of Mr. Henry Devitt, of the firm of Messrs. Henry Devitt & Co., Dunster House, Mincing Lane, he is retiring, and Messrs. Lewis & Peat have arranged for the transfer to them of the goodwill of that business. Mr. J. A. Moore, who has for some years been a partner in Messrs. Henry Devitt & Co., will also join the firm, and Mr. W. C. Radermacher, who has been associated with them for many years, will transfer his services to Messrs. Lewis & Peat.

SOME ONE IN BRIGHTON is advertising that he will give for 6*d.* an English translation of any physician's prescription, so that the owners may get the medicine cheaper than a chemist would make it up. A C. & D. subscriber has a horsewhip in salt for him.

Personalities.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL AND MRS. CLIFFORD PROBYN return grateful thanks to all friends who have so kindly sympathised with them in their sad bereavement, also for the beautiful flowers sent, and ask that this method of expressing their deep gratitude may be accepted.

WE regret to learn that Mr. John Taylor, of Bolton, member of the Pharmaceutical Council, is seriously ill. Much sympathy has been extended to Mr. Taylor, who is most highly esteemed for his uprightness of character and honesty of purpose by all who are acquainted with him.

MR. J. O. BRAITHWAITE, pharmaceutical chemist, calls our attention to the North London Natural History Society, which some pharmacists would be glad to know of. The Society have provided a capital programme for the half-year, in which botany, microscopy, and entomology take part. The Secretary is Mr. R. W. Robbins, 179 Hall Ead Road, Walthamstow, and the subscription is but nominal.

MR. JOHN HURREN, head of Messrs S. Maw, Son & Sons' packing-department, and who was with the firm thirty-two years, has been compelled to retire owing to failing health. Before he left, on December 31, the men in the packing and credits departments presented him with an illuminated address and a gold-mounted walking-stick. Mr. Hurren was highly respected by his colleagues, and it need scarcely be added that his services to the firm were not forgotten.

MR. E. M. HOLMES, F.L.S., Curator of the Pharmaceutical Society's museums, has prepared a report dealing with recent donations, which has been published by the Society as a pamphlet in the familiar grey-linen covers. Mr. Holmes devotes a little more than half of the report to botanical specimens, and the rest to notes on materia medica. The report is not only valuable but interesting, and members of the Society should secure the copy of it to which they are, we understand, entitled.

MR. G. CLARIDGE DRUCE, of Oxford, was among the guests at the House party of Mr. Vernon and Lady Margaret Watney at Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire, recently. The party included Sir Edward and Lady Grey, Sir Redvers and Lady Audley Buller, Miss Buller, Sir Edward and Lady Bradford, Lady Margaret Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Buxton, and the Hon. O. Wallop. Mr. Druce has been appointed Secretary of the Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles, and is to edit the report for 1903.

AN APPRECIATION of the late William M. Warren, general manager of Parke, Davis & Co., from the pen of Mr. Thomas Maben, appears in the January issue of "Pharmaceutical Notes." The writer says:

The story of the rise of William M. Warren from the humblest of positions to that of general manager of the greatest establishment of its kind in existence, in the marvellously short period of sixteen years, is one of those romances of business that we meet with much more frequently in fiction than in actual life. Born in 1864—he was thus only thirty-nine years old at his death—he entered the New York branch of Parke, Davis & Co. in the year 1880 as an office-boy.

His progress to the general managership is noted, and the appreciation proceeds:

THE mere recital of the main facts in Mr. Warren's career conveys a world of meaning to all who are acquainted with the enormous complexities and ramifications of a huge business, and especially such a business as the one he controlled, the limits of which are co-extensive with the limits of civilisation. It furnishes an index to the powerful personality of the man who thus forged his way from the bottom round of the ladder to its very summit, and of those qualities that combined to make him the commercial genius he was. A man of great versatility and large grasp, an unerring judge of human nature, a natural diplomat, whose genial, sunny nature was reflected on all with whom he came in contact, and of a generous and kindly disposition, he was loved and esteemed by his associates and employes, and by the trade at large. These qualities, combined with his "eagle's eye for opportunity and an insatiable appetite for fresh enterprise in fields that remained unperceived by the dull vision of the mediocre," contributed not a little to his unparalleled success as a business man.

MR. R. R. BENNETT, pharmaceutical chemist, who for some time has been demonstrator in pharmacy under Professor Greenish at the Bloomsbury School, has been

appointed chief pharmacist at University College, Gower Street, W.C., in succession to Mr. Harold Wilson. Mr. Bennett, who served his apprenticeship with Mr. W. F. Brown, of Dover, has been a brilliant student and most successful prize winner. He was very popular at the Square, and was distinguished as a genial and painstaking worker and teacher with a total absence of "side."

MR. HENRY S. WELLCOME writes to us in regard to the exhibition of historical objects illustrating the development of the art and science of healing throughout the ages, which he is promoting in commemoration of the semi-jubilee of the foundation of his firm. The success of the undertaking will, he says, depend largely upon the co-operation of those who, like himself, are interested in the historical side of our calling. Any objects sent to Mr. Wellcome for exhibition will be well cared for and insured, packing and carriage being paid for by Mr. Wellcome. Those who are desirous of contributing should obtain from Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C., a syllabus of the proposed exhibits. The exhibition is to be held in London in the course of a few months.

A LIVING AD.

ON December 29 a fancy-dress entertainment was given in the Guild Hall, Carnarvon, in aid of the District Nurses' Fund, at which prizes were offered for the best local advertising costume.

The little lady, Miss Dora Douglas, whose portrait and costume we depict here, was awarded the first prize. The costume was designed and finished by Mr. Robert Roberts, chemist and druggist, 8 Bangor Street, Carnarvon, and his friends, and, as will be seen, it afforded an ingenious and by no means unpleasant advertisement of Mr. Roberts's wares. The colour-scheme employed was red and white. The petticoat and mortar hat was in red, with white-coated antibilious pills stuck on, and a row of pills also adorned the red ribbon worn round the neck. The dress was in white, but the front of the bodice portion was a red chest-protector. White puffs with red tops were fixed on shoulder and cuffs, and trimmings of red pill-boxes (labelled and priced) appeared all down the front and back of the bodice and skirt. A bunch of soothers was suspended, chatelaine-like, from a red waistbelt. The bottom of the skirt was decorated with puffs and pill-boxes alternately. The sleeves were trimmed with tooth-brushes, tooth-paste, babies' combs, and babies' brushes. A feeding-bottle peeped from the outside pocket. The slippers were red, with five white felt corn-plasters on each. Miss Douglas carried in her hands a spray filled with Persian bouquet perfume, which she diffused liberally among the sightseers.



MISS DORA DOUGLAS.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

OWING to a heavy fog on Wednesday artificial light was used to illuminate the Council chamber; but in truth the proceedings were far from illuminating. The deputation to the Board of Inland Revenue, which might fairly be said to be of some interest to the trade, was passed over as being "satisfactory." The "Compendium" is as great a mystery as ever; and although Mr. Carteighe has "a perfectly clear idea" on the matter, he "refuses to be drawn." One thing that is perfectly certain is that the Benevolent Fund is in need of assistance. Several causes have contributed to a shrinkage in the amount subscribed—causes which, unfortunately, also contribute more needy applicants. Some good contributions to the fund were announced as having been recently received, but the need for more subscribers, upon whom the support of the fund mainly depends, exists as keenly as ever. Mr. Carteighe made a statement as to the proceedings of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Education in reference to leaving certificates, which seems to foreshadow revolutionary changes in the requirements of preliminary professional examinations.

The monthly Council-meeting took place at 16 Bloomsbury Square on January 6. There were present the President (Mr. S. R. Atkins), Vice-President (Mr. C. B. Allen), Treasurer (Mr. Walter Hills), and Messrs. M. Carteighe, O. Corder, W. G. Cross, W. L. Currie, R. L. Gifford, W. S. Glyn-Jones, J. F. Harrington, J. Harrison, G. T. W. Newsholme, R. A. Robinson, A. Southall, C. Symes, A. C. Wootton, and J. R. Young.

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. Taylor was absent through illness, that Mr. Storrar was unwell with rheumatism, and that Mr. Cooper was absent through "an auspicious event which transpires in his family during the day."

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, and confirmed.

ELECTIONS AND RESTORATIONS.

A list containing names of 140 members and fifty-four student-associates was submitted for election, the PRESIDENT remarking upon it as an exceptional record, and said he honestly believed that it represented an increased confidence in the Council.

Several persons were restored to the Society and to the register.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The report of the Financial Committee, taken as read, showed a balance on the General Fund account of 1,477*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*; the receipts during the month amounted to 2,992*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, and included 2,329*l.* 10*s.* received as examination-fees. The amount submitted for payment was 2,690*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, made up as follows:

	£	s.	d.
On behalf of the "Journal"	802	2	10
School	67	14	8
House	341	6	2
Law charges	368	5	7
Stationery, &c.	18	2	11
Salaries	166	5	0
Current expenses	900	0	0
Museum and library	26	15	7

The Benevolent Fund account showed a deficiency of 255*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, the balances on the Donation and Orphan Fund accounts being respectively 219*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* and 86*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

The report was adopted without remark.

BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Benevolent Fund Committee was taken in committee, after which

The VICE-PRESIDENT drew attention to the serious state of the Benevolent Fund finances. The committee are not only

face to face with an adverse balance of 255*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, but have to face the contingency of having to pay in March annuities amounting to 500*l.* It is expected that the next few months will see a good influx of subscriptions, but a larger number will be needed to meet the adverse balance. The committee had almost come to the conclusion not to give any relief, but when this came to the ears of a member of Council who has always advocated the giving of relief to the utmost capacity, he (the member of Council) generously gave a subscription of 100*l.* This enabled the committee to continue their good work of relieving distressful applicants. The Vice-President then made an eloquent appeal to chemists throughout the country for subscriptions to the fund. The fund, he said, has been a father to numerous fatherless children, a husband to widows, and a help to many an out-of-work chemist. Timely help has often saved a home and been the means of placing young children in situations where their earnings have been of help to a family. Divisional secretaries should also, he added, make a special whip round their districts at a time like this, when both the needs of the fund and the distress of the applicants are very real. The grants recommended by the committee were one of 10*l.*, one of 12*l.*, three of 13*l.*, one of 15*l.*, and one of 20*l.* Three cases were deferred and two not entertained.

Mr. SOUTHALL also spoke on the necessity of obtaining more subscribers to the fund: all that was needed was small subscriptions.

Mr. YOUNG added that he thought large subscriptions would be acceptable also.

The PRESIDENT supported the appeal and said that two-thirds of the chemists in the country contributed nothing to the fund. It would perhaps have been an object-less note to the trade if the committee had recommended the "closing of some of the wards of the infirmary," but through the generosity of a member of Council the committee were able to make the usual grants.

Mr. CROSS suggested that local associations might make the Benevolent Fund one of their subjects in the coming session.

Mr. WALTER HILLS hoped the appeal would meet with response, and asked the Press to enlist the sympathies of the trade.

Mr. CORDER said that two-thirds of the money voted was for the relief of the representatives of those who had never contributed to the fund.

Mr. CARTEIGHE said he had no sympathy with the question of whether people subscribed or not. The fund was not a provident fund, and they could not go back on the honourable compact of 1868, when it was decided that the fund was to be devoted to the benefit of all chemists. Do not, he added, raise the question of caste, but get the money.

The report was adopted, after which

The PRESIDENT announced that among the amounts received at the office for the fund were the following: Mr. Elliman, 100*l.*; Pharmaceutical Football concert, three guineas; Bristol Local Committee of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, 15*l.*; Chemists' Assistants' Association, 10*s.* 7*d.*

A formal resolution, enabling the Treasurer to pay the amounts of the annuities as they become due during the year, was then passed.

Mr. CARTEIGHE, in the meantime, making the suggestion that subscribers should increase the amount of their subscriptions.

L., M., S., AND H. COMMITTEE.

The report of the Library, Museum, School, and House Committee was next before the Council. The items were not particularly fresh as the committee met in the early part of December. Messrs. Parkinson's account, 51*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, was passed, and in regard to the school it was stated that the students' exercise-books have been registered at Stationers' Hall. The School Committee are also considering the suggestion for a Board of Studies in Pharmacy and an improvement in the teaching of practical pharmaceuticals.

THE DEPUTATION.

The PRESIDENT in a very grave and deliberate manner made the following announcement in regard to the deputa-

tion that waited on the Board of Inland Revenue in December:

The deputation appointed at the last Council-meeting, consisting of the President, Vice-President, and Mr. Carteighe, and accompanied by the Secretary, had an interview with the Board of Inland Revenue which was of a private and confidential nature. Your deputation regards the interview as a satisfactory one, assisting to establish a useful relation between the Board and this Council. We hope and believe that further conferences will arise between the two bodies as the outcome of the deputation.

Dr. SYMES asked if this ended the deputation—(laughter)—because the President's announcement did not seem to be quite explanatory, and yet there was no report.

The PRESIDENT: You have evidently not quite caught the last sentence. I will repeat my remarks.

This was done, but

Dr. SYMES said that, without in any way wishing to raise a discussion, the situation seemed like this: "I have a chat with another person on a matter, and hope I shall have another chat before long." That implied that the first chat was quite done with.

The PRESIDENT added that the deputation was not finished with.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

The communication from the Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association as to the Preliminary and Minor examination reforms (*C. & D.*, December 12, page 963) was referred to the Library Committee for consideration.

A letter from Mr. W. B. Cowie (Edinburgh) in regard to the acceptance of a certificate of elementary knowledge was also referred to a committee after a discussion in committee.

Mr. CARTEIGHE said that in accordance with the decision of the Council he attended the Departmental Committee of the Board of Education with Mr. Saul. There was no definite resolutions or reporting, but a draft of the proceedings were sent to the members of the Conference. There was nothing to call for special notice by the Pharmaceutical Society's representatives. The General Medical Council were represented, and it was felt that what was good enough for the General Medical Council would be good enough for pharmacy. The ages of pupils are not to be too sharply divided, and it is proposed to recognise certificates of good general education in, say, half-a-dozen subjects of one kind and half-a-dozen of another, the education to be such as would practically qualify a lad to start in the world. A new principle was agreed to—that of inspecting every secondary school, not in the examination sense, but to ensure that the mode of tuition is up to a certain standard. It would then be possible, after three years at a school or schools, to obtain a certificate that a certain standard of education had been attained. This system of inspection will, it is thought, get over the evils of mere paper examinations, and lads of comparatively young age could leave with a certificate which would carry them into walks of life that are now closed to them. On behalf of the Society he (Mr. Carteighe) was able to say that he could recommend the support of these principles provided that the essential subject of Latin was included. He was sure that the principle of looking well to the training of boys was a good one.

LETTERS.

The Manchester Pharmaceutical Association forwarded a resolution indicating approval of the action of the Council in approaching the Board of Inland Revenue, and urging the necessity of further delay in the introduction of the new procedure of the Board. [This was probably submitted before the present extension was granted.—Ed.]

The Divisional Secretary for the Ripon Division of Yorkshire intimated that he had appointed Mr. F. W. Senior, of Ripon, to assist him in the duties of his office.

This the Council sanctioned.

The Dewsbury Association requested the Council to approach the Board of Inland Revenue with a view to a more stringent enforcement of the Spirits Act.

This was referred to the Law and Parliamentary Committee.

A certificate from Mr. T. U. C. Joyce, granted by Queen's College, Galway, was recommended to the Board of Examiners for acceptance as a test of elementary knowledge.

THE HANBURY ENDOWMENT.

Some slight alterations in the deed of declaration of trust for the endowment of the Hanbury medal which Sir Thos. Hanbury suggested were accepted, and the seal of the Society is to be affixed to the deed if the President finds it correct after reading it over.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.

The PRESIDENT announced that he had received congratulations from the President and members of the Pharmacy Board of Queensland, conveying "hearty good wishes that the chain of reciprocity between Britain and Greater Britain be completed." (Hear, hear.) The PRESIDENT added that he thought it was desirable that the Society have a card prepared returning good wishes such as these.

The card was passed round for the inspection of the councillors.

THE COMPENDIUM.

Mr. CARTEIGHE, as Chairman of the Compendium Committee, reported that an informal conference had been held with Messrs. F. C. J. Bird, W. A. H. Naylor, J. C. Umney, and Edmund White in reference to the request for information as to the scope of the Compendium. As the result of an interchange of views on the general scope of the Compendium the committee proposes to reply to the Executive Committee of the Conference to the effect that it is desired to have the co-operation of the Conference in the production of the work, and that the Executive be invited to appoint a committee to confer with the Compendium Committee as to the practicability of affording help to that body in producing the contemplated work.

Mr. HILLS said he was relieved to find that the proposed character of the Compendium had been so much modified. He had taken considerable interest in this question, and was glad things had taken the direction they had. It seemed a pity that an informal conference was not held at an earlier stage of the proceedings, as they were all, he was sure, agreed that it would have been ungenerous and impolitic to ignore or not recognise the good work that had been done by the British Pharmaceutical Conference in producing their "Formulary." He hoped some satisfactory solution would be arrived at, and a useful Compendium produced. The Compendium, he understood, was to have been out this month, but now it would not be out till perhaps next year or the year after. They might expect good results from co-operation with the gentlemen who have done such good work in the past, and he hoped in due course a Compendium would be produced which will be a credit to the Society.

Mr. GLYN-JONES said he wished he could share Mr. Hills's feelings of satisfaction, or read such a lot into the report, and see such a change of views of the committee, as that gentleman was able to do. The Conference asked the very definite question in November, "What is the scope of the projected work?" and he did not think that question had been answered. In August, when the resolution was passed, no one, except Mr. Carteighe, had the slightest doubt but that it was intended to meet the Medicine-stamp Act difficulty, and clearly for this reason January 1 was fixed as the date of publication. Now, however, a book will be published—"Pharmaceutical Formulas"—"Pharmaceutical Journal" Formulary—which will meet the medicine-stamp difficulty. Although the committee were asked a straight question, they could not answer it, but held an informal conference. With what object was not clear, unless it was to ask the British Pharmaceutical Conference to help in producing the Compendium. But in the report of the other side, which was published last week, it was stated

That if an invitation be received by the British Pharmaceutical Conference Executive from the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain for the members of the Formulary Committee to confer with them as to the necessity for and scope of the projected Compendium the matter shall receive further consideration.

From this it is clear that the Compendium Committee were not able to tell the conference what the contents of the book will be, but that further consideration will be given when information as to the scope of the projected Com-

* This is the title of the work published by THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST only.

pendium is forthcoming: The Compendium Committee got rid of the two members who could not agree with them, and it would have been supposed that the remaining members could agree as to the scope. That apparently is not so, as the Chairman had to call a conference to talk over the scope of the book. It looked as though the Chairman was not so successful as he usually is and was not able to talk over the conference. If the Compendium Committee are able to come before the Council and show that the work it is proposed to do can only be produced by the expenditure of much money and brains, the Council would be justified in considering the publication of a Compendium. As it is, the difficulties and confusion of ideas have not been got rid of by sending away the two dissentient members of the committee.

Mr. CARTEIGHE: There is no confusion.

Mr. GLYN-JONES, continuing, said the committee were unable to answer a question as to the scope of the Compendium, and, although there had since been a conference, the answer was not yet forthcoming. He submitted that the report of the conference-meeting showed the frame of mind of the conference quite clearly, and that when the Council passed the resolution in August the Medicine-stamp Act created the confusion. He moved that the Compendium be not proceeded with.

The motion was not seconded.

Mr. CARTEIGHE: There is no difficulty at all. If Mr. Glyn-Jones thinks he can draw me he is very much mistaken. I am too old to be educated by a junior, and can well afford to wait. I should like to say there is no difference between the British Pharmaceutical Conference and ourselves, but the fact of their "Formulary" being ready for publication makes the conditions a little difficult. I have perfectly clear ideas of the scope of the book, but I shall not gratify Mr. Glyn-Jones by expressing them.

Dr. SYMES did not quite agree with Mr. Glyn-Jones's remarks, and as he was not present at the August meeting he was bound to submit to the majority. The position was evidently one of some delicacy, but he hoped the result would be that no friction would be made between the two bodies. The Compendium appeared to take the wind out of the sails of the Conference, and the publication of the "Formulary" had always been one of the reasons that could be urged for the existence of the Conference. He should be sorry to see the "Formulary" disappear, and if it became part of the larger book he hoped the Conference would get its share of the credit.

The PRESIDENT said he wished to emphatically remark that there is no friction between the two bodies. On the contrary, he was authorised to say that the workers in the British Pharmaceutical Conference were not only prepared but willing to render their services. These services have already been recognised as invaluable on account of their accuracy and completeness, and because they represent some of the best workers in the Kingdom.

MAJOR EXAMINATION.

THE following are the papers given by the Board of Examiners for England and Wales at the January examination:

BOTANY.

[Theoretical. Five questions only to be answered.

1. How would you show experimentally that plants lose water by transpiration? By what means is transpiration retarded in plants inhabiting desert regions?

2. Describe and compare the gametophyte generations of *Selaginella*, *Lycopodium*, and *Pinus*.

3. What are enzymes? Explain their mode of action, indicate the situations in which they occur, and the various substances on which they operate.

4. Write a short account of the distribution of the non-nitrogenous reserve materials in the seed and in a young seedling of the castor oil plant.

5. Give an account of the structures and life-history of *Erysiphe graminis* and *Pythium de Baryanum*.

6. A branch of a tree is cut off; comment on the changes which take place in the exposed xylem, and explain the process by which the wound is healed.

Practical.

1. Make one preparation to show the laticiferous vessels in *A. Sketch and explain your preparation.*

2. Cut a transverse section of *B* and mount in iodine. Describe the action of this substance upon the section.

3. Examine and sectionise diagrams to explain the botanical structures of *C*, *D*, *E*.

CHEMISTRY.

Only six questions to be attempted.

1. Give a detailed description of the manner in which you would prepare aqueous solutions of the following substances: (a) ferric hydroxide; (b) silicic acid; (c) arsenious sulphide.

2. Give an account of the action of chlorine on the following: (a) solution of potassium carbonate; (b) solution of sodium thiosulphate; (c) solution of ferrous sulphate; (d) ammonia solution. Give equations.

3. Ten grams of a salt of density 2.5 are dissolved in 500 c.c. of water. The density of the solution is found to be 1.015. What is the volume of the solution, and how does it differ from the volume of the solvent plus that of the dissolved salt?

4. Give some examples to illustrate what is meant by the action of mass in chemical changes.

5. Describe how you would test for (a) chlorides in presence of iodides and bromides; (b) iodates in presence of iodides; (c) sulphites in presence of sulphides; (d) bicarbonates in presence of carbonates. Explain the chemistry of the tests by means of equations.

6. Give some examples of the use of the following reagents in organic chemistry: hydriodic acid, alcoholic potash, sodium, aluminium chloride.

7. Give examples to show how the substitution of particular elements or radicals for the hydrogen of an organic substance modifies, without entirely transforming, the chemical character of the substance. Distinguish between the electro-positive and the electro-negative influence thus exerted.

8. State the evidence which justifies the constitutional formulae usually assigned to urea and to naphthalene.

9. Explain the meaning and origin of the following terms as used in organic chemistry: Alkyl, quinone, metamer, carbohydrate, sulphonic acid, secondary diamine.

MATERIA MEDICA.

1. What do you know of the formation and constitution of resins? How are they collected and prepared for use in pharmacy? Describe minutely the process for estimating the resin in jalap, sketching any apparatus you employ.

2. Give the diagnostic features of the following barks: *Cascara sagrada*, red cinchona, cinnamon, cusparia, oak, quillaia. Name the active principle in each of the barks, and give a detailed account of the separation of one of these in a state of purity.

3. What are the chemical and physical characters of essential oils? How are they obtained? What constituents are present in the following oils, and how would you estimate the value of the oils: Anise, cinnamon, lavender, sandalwood?

Practical.

1. Write descriptions of the drugs provided, following the style of the pharmacopoeial monographs.

2. Make histological preparations to show the structure of the drug provided; note any cell-contents, and make sketches of your preparation, pointing out features of diagnostic value. Leave two slides for inspection, and examine the powder of the same drug for added impurity, stating what this is.

PHYSICS.

Only six questions to be attempted.

1. Give the main current at a pressure of 100 volts. Describe the arrangement which you would make to charge a six-cell accumulator.

2. Describe a polariscope, and explain the principle of the use of this instrument for determining the percentage composition of a solution of cane-sugar.

3. What do you understand by the "critical temperature" of a gas? Describe an experiment in illustration of your answer.

4. Two lenses of principal foci 14 inches and 9 inches are combined together with a separation of 2.84 inches between the lenses. Neglecting thickness of the lenses, which will be the equivalent focus of the combination?

5. Give a general account of the present theory of the passage of a current through an electrolyte, and describe a method of determining the conductivity of a solution such, for example, as one of copper sulphate.

6. Explain the principles involved in the production of a low temperature (a) by the evaporation of a volatile liquid such as ether, (b) by mixing together ice and salt, (c) by the sudden expansion of a gas under pressure.

7. Given a spectrometer and a hollow prism, describe in detail the measurements and calculations you would have to make to determine the index of refraction of a liquid for sodium light.

8. Explain how determinations of the "dew-point" afford information about the pressure of water-vapour in the atmosphere and describe two ways of finding the "dew-point."

Radium.

THIS has been a week prolific in radium-developments. First, we hear from Paris that Mme. Curie, its discoverer, has improved her process of isolating the element from uranium-residues. In her doctorate thesis she described the process in detail, the penultimate stage being that in which all elements except barium and radium are eliminated, the residue being a mixture of barium and radium chlorides. This stage is now changed so that the two metals are obtained as bromides, in which form they are more readily and quickly separated.

The second and most interesting discovery has been made by the Hon. R. J. Strutt, son of Lord Rayleigh. It is that radium exists in the Bath-waters deposit in appreciable but not paying quantities. It is well known that these waters are the source of the helium which Professor Dewar uses in his experiments. Further, that radium gives off helium. Mr. Strutt put these two facts together and examined the iron-deposit, with the result stated. In a letter to the Bath Town Council he says:

I think there can be little doubt that the helium of Bath owes its origin to large quantities of radium at a great depth below the earth's surface. A little of this radium is carried up by the rush of hot water, and is found in the deposit. My experiments promise further interesting developments.

Mr. Strutt has assured the Council that the quantity present in the deposit is much less than is found in the ores from which radium is at present obtained.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain presided on Tuesday evening at a lecture which was given at Birmingham by Sir Oliver Lodge, Principal of the University, on "Radium." Sir Oliver showed how the discovery of the properties of radium, though it revolutionises some of the doctrines of science, is in accordance with the theories and anticipations of leading physicists, who had been on the look out for evidence of some kind of atomic radiation. He described the theories which point to such phenomena, and detailed the processes by which Mme. Curie extracted radium from pitchblende, showing that the discovery revealed the perpetual mutability of matter, even in the atomic form, which had been believed to be unchanging.

The lecture was an excellent *résumé* of the subject, but owing to Sir Oliver's lucidity of exposition and knowledge of the electron theory it had all the appearance of fresh revelation. We quote two passages from it:

The lecturer threw on the lantern-screen a page of the "Cambridge Calendar," showing the position in the Tripos for 1830 of Larmor and Thomson, now professors, at Cambridge, of mathematics and physics respectively. From them and others we learn that electricity exists in small particles, which we can in a manner "see" in the cathode or Crookes' rays, and which are called "electrons." These compose the atoms of matter. Atoms are small; 300,000,000 of them can lie in a row side by side in an inch, and there are a trillion of them in each granule of lycopodium. Electrons are very much smaller, 100,000 of them can lie in the diameter of an atom, for they are a thousand-million-million times smaller in bulk than atoms; they are to atoms as a grain of dust-shot is to the size of the town hall. An electric charge in motion constitutes all the electric currents and magnetism, and possesses momentum. When accelerated it should, by Poynting's theorem, generate radiation. Hence, on the view or mathematical theory that the atom is actually constituted of electrons, the absence of atomic radiation in the year 1895 was a difficulty; the escape of the electrons as projectiles was probable; and soon afterwards it was realised that, since the atom is composed of parts, the occasional disintegration of an atom is not unlikely. These three expected effects have now been experimentally observed in the radiation from two or three different elements, and constitute what are called the Gamma, Beta, and Alpha rays.

After referring to Stokes's observations on fluorescence, the discovery of the Röntgen rays, Becquerel's work on radio-activity, and Mme. Curie's on radio-active radium, Sir Oliver Lodge described the researches which have followed the last, especially the discovery by Ramsay that the radium-emanation is resolved into helium. He then said:

The spontaneous breaking-up of an atom constitutes a novel source of energy larger than any previously known. The amount of energy of any weighable collection of atoms is enormous if it can be got at, but in practice only a very few atoms are unstable from instant to instant. Most behave as if they are permanent;

but they are probably none of them really and eternally permanent. The discovery of this new or intra-atomic energy affects our estimate of the possible life of the sun, and to some extent of the probable geologic age of the earth. But the most important consequence is the discovery of the mutability of matter, the transmutation of elements, and the liability of material atoms to break up or explode. In old days Heraclitus promulgated the doctrine that the universe is not a "being," but a "becoming"; that everything is in a state of flux—*πάντα ῥεῖ*—that nothing is stationary, or fixed, or permanent. It is absolutely true. In human life the fact is easily recognised; all our efforts are towards the future—our instinct will not allow us to rest on our oars and enjoy the present. . . . Twenty years ago it was thought that the atoms of matter are exempt from this liability to change. Maxwell said the atoms themselves "remain constant. They are the foundation-stones of the material universe, and are perfect in size and number and weight, unchanged and unchangeable, not capable of wear, but as true to-day as when they were coined at the mint of the mighty Artificer in some inconceivable dawn of creation." Not so; the process of change has now been found to reach to these also. Nothing material is permanent. Millions and billions—aye, trillions—of years it may last, but it is slowly changing, not merely the groupings, but the foundation-stones themselves. The atoms are crumbling and decaying; must they not also be forming and coming to the birth?

Going back again to France, we get a word of caution from M. Berthelot, which the "Morning Post" publishes. He is not inclined to accept the theory that radium is an exception to the known laws of Nature. Radium, he says, is simply a substance with an exceptional capacity for receiving the waves of energy emanating from the sun and giving them off. To say that radium upsets all scientific knowledge is, M. Berthelot thinks, an utter mistake.

Trade Notes.

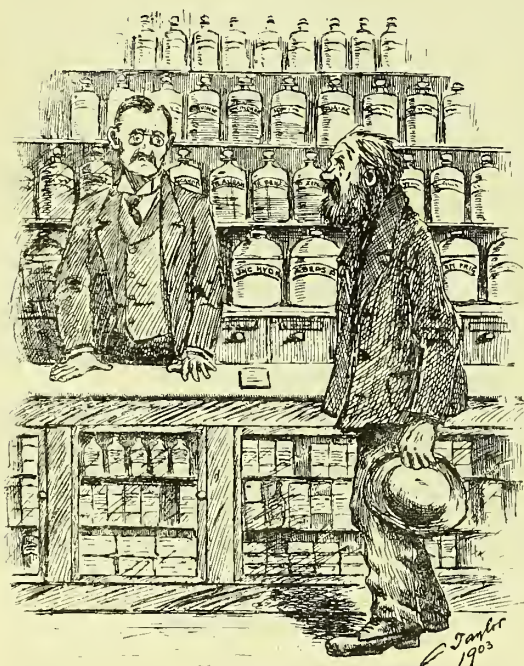
ZINC VALERIANATE in tabloid form, made by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, E.C., is sent out sugar-coated. Some of these tabloids containing 2-gr. of the drug which we have examined this week are beautifully finished products. When placed in cold water the coating flakes off in a few seconds, and a few minutes afterwards the dry valerianate of zinc floats on the surface. The tabloids are almost completely free from the smell of valerian, and we shall be interested to note whether the odour becomes more pronounced on keeping.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PREPARATIONS.—Mr. J. E. Lockyer, 244 to 250 Evelyn Street, Deptford, S.E., is shortly placing on the market 6½ trial sizes of his various developers and other photographic preparations. The idea is to encourage amateurs to give these lines a trial, as a trial nearly always leads to a more extended use. Mr. Lockyer has sent us a sample of his "acid hypo fixer" which is packed in rather an ingenious manner. It is put up in cardboard tubes containing from one to three charges, each for making half a pint of fixing-bath. In the case of the multiple tubes the different charges are separated by cardboard discs, but are readily pushed out of the outer tube when required for use.

MALT AND OIL.—A sample of Trommer extract of malt with cod-liver oil reminds us that the malt-and-oil season is at its height. The sample under consideration shows the mixture to be a homogeneous and palatable method of exhibiting cod-liver oil combined with a diastasic extract of undeniable value. The preparation is manufactured in England, and is nicely produced in an oval-shaped bottle fitted with a patent Phoenix cap. The wholesale depot is with Messrs. Francis Newbery & Sons, 44 Charterhouse Street, E.C.

MARTINDALE'S PRICE-LIST for January, 1904, marks a new departure, for alongside each other are given quotations for imperial and metric weights and measures. This course is adopted partly on account of the fact that the late Mr. William Martindale was a strong supporter of the metric system and advocate of the abolition of the imperial system (these views being shared by his house), but chiefly on account of the growing need for such quotations, the business of the house having recently extended to France and Germany. Apart from this feature of the price-list it is one of the most complete in respect to rare medicines, and usually contains fresh entries and notes every month. Any subscriber may obtain a copy of it by writing to Wm. Martindale, 10 New Cavendish Street, London, W.

The Kaleidoscope.



Christmas Aftermath.

Chemist: "Why, what on earth have you been doing to your face?"

Much-married William: "It's like this 'ere, sir: Me and the missus don't seem to git erlong somehow; well, you know, sir—you're a married man yerself!"

Association Ballads.

THE FOREWORD.

*The men, their aims, their daily irk;
Their troubles, trials, thoughts, and views
On things politic, foes that lurk
In friendly guise, but treach'rous work—
These be the burden of our Muse.*

I.

ABERDONIA.

Noo, we're canny fook in Aiberdeen, th' canniest o' th' canny,
An' we're aiblins very carefu' every wife and ilka mannie;
So its' mebbe no' for me to say, but, man, the droggists here
Are jist as fine a set o' men as ye'd fin' far or near.

We've a graund Association, it's th' auldest i' th' laun',
An' we've had oor ain opeenions sin' oor thinkin' days began;
We have hearkened to the spouters, but we back wi' sober smiles
Oor ain fechtin' Jamie Paterson or gentle Weelum Giles.

For Jamie kens a thing or twa an' Weelum's dounce an' dry,
He maks a model President; he has a pawky wye.
We wanted Jeems for Cooncillor till Giesca got a fricht,
An' focht for Maister Currie wi' their tongues an' a' their might.

An' then there's clever Tocber tee, th' man frae Peterheid,
Th' droggist, anthropologist, stateecian, an' ye'll need
Tae rise up mighty early an' to search baith in an' oot
If ye want to fin' a subject that he disna ken aboot.

He's a dab at Uric Acid; in fack, lives on chemistree,
An' division territorial is a thing he'd like tae see;
While his views on Education they wad drive ye fairly gyte,
For be hobnobs wi' Carnegie—this same modest lookin' wight.

An' so ye see in Aiberdeen o' talent we've nae lack,
We say things an' we dae them; an' when S-cretary Black
Seu's oot his meetin' notices, th' Big Bugs at th' Square
Begin to fidge uneasy, but lat on they dinna care.

Trade-marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with C. N. DALTON, Esq., C.B., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form J, cost £1, obtainable through any money-order office.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," December 30, 1903.)

"SEAOSE"; for anti-incrustators. By Crystal & Co., 17 Albert Street, Rochdale. 258,961.

"BORAMA"; for a surgical dressing. By A. Tertis, 141 Amhurst Road, Hackney, N.E. 254,275.

"SERUK"; for a powder for biliousness. By A. E. Laing, 5 Beechwood Road, Headingley, Leeds. 258,471.

"RETEP"; for chemicals. By P. Tensfeldt, 7 Maurice Place, Edinburgh. 258,766.

"PAJARO" and "PAJARITO" (both words mean "a sparrow" in Spanish); for oils, turpentine, resins, and dyes. By Goodlass, Wall & Co. (Limited), 42 Seel Street, Liverpool. 258,717 and 258,718.

"ZEROLIN" ("Z ro" disclaimed); for a lubricating oil. By the Linde British Refrigeration Company (Limited), 35 Queen Victoria Street, E.C. 257,832.

"CLENCLO"; for a cloth and fabric cleanser. By L. Forse, 32 The Avenue, Yeovil. 258,461.

"IVRADONT"; for tooth-powders, dentifrices, &c. By A. Tulloch & Co., Willpha. Longlands Park Road, Sidcup. 258,737.

"FROTTOLINE"; for a chemical compound to prevent window-, &c., steaming. By H. E. Kennard, 56 Ludgate Hill, E.C. 258,524.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," January 6, 1904.)

Combination of devices and the word "VIDILE"; for films (plain and three colour). By Leipziger Buchbinderei Aktien Gesellschaft vormals Gustave Fritzsche, Leipzig, c/o Boulton, Wade & Kilburn, 111 Hatton Garden, E.C. 258,428.

Combination of devices (including two horns, a cat-fish ornament used by African natives, and the letters J. H.); for chemicals. By J. Holt & Co., Liverpool (Limited), 81 Dale Street, Liverpool. 258,820.

"PINETOL" ("Pine" disclaimed); for a chemical. By the Chemical Union (Limited), Wherstead Road, Ipswich. 258,726.

"ANKLYOCIDE"; for disinfectants. By Wallach Brothers, 57 Gracechurch Street, E.C. 258,815.

"SALODYNE"; for a medicine for sheep. By Day, Son & Hewitt, 22 Dorset Street, W. 258,883.

"TRITUROID" ("Trituro" disclaimed); for chemicals. By C. J. Reid, 276 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. 257,166.

"GILBERT'S YELLOW SALVE"; for an ointment. By W. Gilbert, 9 Speedwell Street, Leeds. 258,839. [Renewal.]

"SALIT"; for chemicals. By the Chemische Fabrik von Heyden Aktien Gesellschaft, Radebeul, c/o Mewburn, Ellis & Pryor, 70 Chancery Lane, W.C. 258,851.

"ASTHMACON" ("Asthma" disclaimed); for chemicals. By Fassett & Johnson, 32 Snow Hill, E.C. 259,016.

"QUETÁ"; for scientific apparatus. By H. Dawson, 34 Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C. 259,246.

Device (nude figure supporting a sun device bearing the words "Dowsing's Electric Sun-baths," underneath "The Solarium"); for radiant heat-baths. By H. J. Dowsing, 24 Budge Row, E.C. 256,483.

"THRIVO" ("Thrive" disclaimed); for a chicken-food. By Glosters' (Limited), Corn Exchange, Woking, Surrey. 259,001.

"AYRESTO"; for a hair-restorer. By W. Geserich, 3 Devereux Court, Temple, W.C. 254,344.

"CREMISSA" ("Cream" disclaimed); for perfumery and toilet-articles. By C. R. Toyne, 84 Clarendon Road, Putney, S.W., chemist and druggist. 258,973.

"AMANDA"; for perfumery, &c. By E. A. Robinson, 50 Queen's Wood Road, Forest Hill, S.E. 259,196.

Observations and Reflections.

BY XRAYSER.

Mr. Boot's Polemics

can hardly be ranked as graceful. He punctuates his letter with a bludgeon where a more skilful controversialist would draw blood with a stiletto. To declare bluntly that the promoters of the Pharmacy Bill "deliberately misled" their champion, Mr. Lough, last year is, in any case, a tactical blunder. If Mr. Boot has conclusive evidence of the infamous conduct with which he charges the Pharmaceutical Council, he is quite right in exposing it, but the exposure would have been far more effective if it had been artistically elaborated instead of being dumped on the House of Commons in this dogmatic fashion. If, on the other hand, Mr. Boot is not prepared to prove his libellous allegation, it was not very good policy to make it to men who are trained in debate.

The "Cunningly-worded" Clause

which, according to this largest, best, and cheapest chemist, imposed on Mr. Lough and other members of Parliament (for the deliberate deception of Mr. Lough was only "a sample" of the promoters' perfidy) presented no difficulty to his intellect. In his last year's manifesto, issued soon after the Bill was printed, Mr. Boot explained Clause 7 with perfect accuracy, and gave no hint that the phraseology was obscure. Perhaps he had not then realised how much more acute he was than the mere ordinary legislator. Mr. Boot's truculence will certainly have the effect of stimulating legitimate pharmacists into closer union and sterner vigour on behalf of the Bill, and it may induce some members of Parliament to inquire about a measure so savagely denounced.

The Alleged Ambiguity of Clause 7

disappears on close reading, and it would be difficult, I fancy, to express the obvious intention of permitting a single director or several to control a pharmacy more clearly. The essential point to keep in mind in any representation of our case to members of Parliament is that so long as the law insists that the "person" who keeps an open shop for the sale of poisons must be qualified, it is unjust unless the person or persons who represent a company doing the same thing are likewise qualified.

The Medicine-stamp

as a "Bend Sinister" is a happy simile which we owe to the mysterious writer of "Now and Then" in last week's *C. & D.* A beneficent Government, according to this view, intended the stamp to be the mark of irregular, not to say incompetent, practice. We have been taking it all these years as merely signifying three-halfpence, and the tax-collector readily enough fell into our way of thinking. Finding us all asleep, the irregulars chose to drum into the public ear the notion that the stamp indicated some kind of official approval. It will be a happy ending to our three-volume troubles if we can again get it recognised as the "bend sinister" of pharmacy. If I were Mr. Fred Reynolds, I would devise a shield for some of our right trusty and well-beloved cousins who have the undoubted right to exhibit this band "from sinister chief to dexter base." The field would, of course, be or and argent, and golpes, whatever they may be, would be blazoned thereupon. A cormorant or liver might serve as crest, and lions rampant, to signify advertisements, would be the obvious supporters. The Beauchamp motto would answer as legend as well as any:

Fortuna mea in bello campo. Dames, I believe, are not entitled to legends in strict heraldry, but Lady Seiger's humble agents might be allowed to adopt the honourable device of *Sine Pretio* to indicate their self-sacrifice.

Why Work for a Living,

when all around us publishers and advertisers are imploring us to accept a share of their wealth for scarcely any consideration! Sir George Newnes buries golden sovereigns under our noses; Mr. Pearson, Messrs. Harmsworth, and the "Times" throw about thousands among people who are willing to plod through Bradshaw or the *Encyclopædia*; for sixpence you can insure your life against accident a dozen times over; you can back your opinion on the next by-election by buying a halfpenny paper; you can secure pianos, bicycles, or phonographs galore by simply answering a few conundrums; if you are a chemist you can secure ten guineas, or a godly slice thereof, by merely voting on the advertisements in the *C. & D. Diary*; and if you are a chemist's wife or daughter you can obtain a crisp fiver or tennor on New Year's morning for the equally easy performance of improving Shakespeare on behalf of Wright's coal-tar soap. In most of these cases, no doubt, mental exercise is requisite, and in many of them exceptional smartness has to be exhibited. More good than harm may result from them if only those who take part in them can steel themselves against the fancy that there is a better way of getting sixpence than by squarely earning it. Compare with these such competitions as those of the Corner for Students, with their modest book prizes and the sound, healthy education which they promote. And alongside of these I would like to mention others held in Hobart in Tasmania, which I read about in the "Chemist and Druggist of Australasia." The one reported was a plaster-spreading competition, and it was to be followed by a pill and mixture tournament. A small prize was offered, and nine competitors entered. Each paid an entrance fee of 1s. to cover cost of materials, and each had to spread a belladonna-plaster, 8 by 6. Assistants were allowed twenty minutes and apprentices thirty minutes, and marks for time, neatness, and finish were allowed. This sort of contest adds to the pleasure of business, and can hardly fail to develop skill.

Relations are Strained,

it appears, between the Pharmaceutical Society and the B.P.C. These two bodies have been drinking each other's healths so persistently for nearly forty years that a little breeze between them is refreshing. The tension can be estimated by the evident effort by which angry words are suppressed in the resolution which the B.P.C. Executive passed. If the Pharmaceutical Council invites us to confer about our Formulary and their Compendium, says the resolution, we will consider the matter. The Court of the Mikado could hardly frame its demand for a climb down more skilfully than that. So far as I can judge, the B.P.C. holds the best end of the stick at present. It has got a "Formulary," compiled after a great deal of work, and undoubtedly of value. The Pharmaceutical Council has undertaken to publish a "Compendium" which shall contain everything in the Formulary, and, as I understand, everything else besides. It is to be a book we are never to look into without finding what we want! There is an awkward law against "lifting" literary work, but at the same time the "Compendium" must have this particular Naboth's vineyard. Consequently its compilers must "confer," and they are plainly told that they must ask prettily to be allowed to do so, or the other party may decline a conference altogether.

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The Outcome of the Deputation.

THE President of the Pharmaceutical Society and his
colleagues who waited upon the Board of Inland Revenue
on the 21st of last month give no more information respecting
the conference than was stated in THE CHEMIST AND

DRUGGIST of December 26. They are practically silent. Our statement, therefore, stands as the only record of the matter available to the trade, and since the opportunity of adding to it, or contradicting it, has been avoided, we conclude that we correctly reported the conference. We were not aware that the affair was private and confidential; on the contrary, the Secretary of the Board of Inland Revenue informed us that the question whether it should be open or not to the Press was one that the Board desired to leave at the discretion of the deputation, and it was the deputation which decided that representatives of the Press should not be present. We cannot account for the secrecy thus sought, but would note how marked a contrast this attitude is to that of the deputation appointed by the Chemists' and Druggists' Trade Association of Great Britain, which had a conference with the Board in 1886. At that time the uncertainty in the trade respecting the administration of the Medicine-stamp Acts was almost as great as that we are now experiencing, and the Association supplied the trade Press with a verbatim report of the conference, the Board not objecting. All that the Pharmaceutical Society's deputation now vouchsafe to tell about its mission is that cordial relations have been established between the Board and the Council (which we stated on December 26), and it is "hoped and believed that further conferences will arise between the two bodies as the outcome of the deputation." There is little satisfaction in that so long as the results of the deputation are to be withheld, even from the Council. It will be observed that Dr. Symes on Wednesday endeavoured to elicit some solid information without avail. We presume the members of the Society are so devoted to it, and expect so little from it, that they will regard it as quite a normal thing for a deputation appointed by the Council to do certain work for which it has been appointed, and then refuse to tell the Council what it has done. The position is deliciously ridiculous! The only explanation of the secrecy that we can think of is what was stated in our issue of December 26—viz., that the deputation "gave the show away."

The President's assurance that negotiations with the Board are not yet completed leads us to hope that the deputation may yet restore the principle of *Farmer v. Glyn-Jones* decision to its statutory level. It is curious to note that Mr. Glyn-Jones was excluded from the deputation. One would have thought he would have been the first of the members of Council to be named for any conference on stamped-medicine questions. With cordial relations established between the Board and the Council, and future conferences in view, we would suggest, as a proper subject for mutual consideration, the principle of qualification as the ground of exemption so cogently put forward by a correspondent in our last issue and in this. We have already expressed the opinion that from the administrative point of view an agreement in regard to what are and what are not known, admitted, and approved remedies is necessary to prevent confusion. To that our correspondent replies with great force that the qualification of the vendor to compound such remedies is the condition laid down by the statutes, and so long as the vendor does not claim proprietary or any other exclusive rights, remedies sold by him are exempt from stamp-duty. That, he says, is the privilege conferred upon qualified chemists by the statutes. As qualification of chemists is certainly higher since 1868 than in 1785, there is the greater reason why the revenue authorities should administer the exemption in the most liberal manner. Whether our correspondent's view of the principle is right or not, it is exactly a thing which the Pharmaceutical

Society, as the statutory authority in respect to the qualification of chemists, should diligently pursue. Reduced to the simplest limits, the suggestion is that Exemption 3 prohibits the revenue authorities from interfering with the sale of recommended remedies by qualified chemists, when (in the terms of the exemption) no occult secret or art for the mixing the same, or exclusive right or title to the mixing or vending the same, is claimed by the chemist. It strikes us that this is eminently a consideration which the Pharmaceutical Society might use its resources to have settled without appeal to the Law Courts, but by conference with the Board of Inland Revenue. Here is an opportunity for the Council not second to that which presented itself to Mr. Glyn-Jones when he conceived the details of the ammoniated-tincture-of-quinine case. Will they grasp it?

The Camphor Situation.

THE advance of twopence per lb. in refined camphor, reported in our last issue, which we anticipated so far back as December 5, is regarded by the refiners and dealers in London as a preparatory step only, and it is quite anticipated that another substantial advance will take place shortly. Even at the present high price of 2s. 4d. per lb. for bells in ton lots, the refiners tell us they are unwilling sellers, and are only supplying regular consumers with small quantities, so that unless the tension should be relieved in some unexpected manner there is a possibility, apart from the contingency of a war breaking out between Russia and Japan, of refined camphor being worth 2s. 10d. to 3s. per lb. to first buyers in the spring. The entire withdrawal of the German refiners from the market a fortnight ago was a natural sequence to recent events, but we understand there are still sellers in second-hands.

Although the situation has not reached a crisis, the present outlook is regarded as serious, and has been partly brought about by the high prices prevailing for crude throughout last year, thereby preventing refiners from purchasing their normal requirements. The consequence is that their stocks of crude and refined are exceptionally low, and no assurance is afforded by the monopoly as to when further supplies will be available. There are no offers of crude camphor at all on the market, either on behalf of the monopoly or in second-hands; nothing is afloat, and the principal markets are bare of stock, including the United States, where it is said refiners are becoming frantic in their endeavours to procure supplies. There is no doubt that the Japanese Government are in a great measure to blame in bringing about the present situation by arbitrary methods and stringent regulations which they made when taking over the Japanese industry. It will be remembered that the Act came into force on October 1, 1903, and it has since transpired that the producers were prohibited from selling their crude camphor and camphor oil except to the Government at a fixed price, which price was left to the Government. This "compensation," as it has been called, has evidently proved unremunerative to the natives, and, as a result, it is said, little or no camphor was manufactured during the year. We cannot guarantee these statements as strictly accurate in detail, but from what we know of the previous dealings of the Japanese Government, we should think they are substantially correct. We also learn on excellent authority that the natives in Formosa are still giving trouble to the Japanese Government by attacking and destroying the stills at intervals. It has been said that the consumption of camphor as a disinfectant is decreasing owing to cheaper substitutes; but, on the other hand, the demands made by the manufacturers of celluloid are annually increasing, it

being estimated at ten times the quantity distributed to wholesale druggists. Moreover, the quantities of German camphor sold on this market have considerably decreased of late years, but this is probably due to the keener competition of English refiners.

"Patents" for Export.

THIS week's mails have brought us letters from India and South Africa in regard to the supply of dutiable medicines unstamped for export. This is an old grievance with our customers beyond the seas. Naturally they object to pay a tax which is applicable to Great Britain only. They say they have enough of their own to pay, and they get "patents" from America unstamped. Our correspondents write as if manufacturers are solely responsible for the trouble, and it may be as well to state the facts once more. There is no tax on proprietary medicines in the United States. A small one was put on in 1898, the occasion being the Cuban war, and all exported proprietaries were required to be stamped, but a rebate was allowed to the value of the stamps. The tax, having served its purpose, has been repealed. Our tax was imposed in 1783 for similar reasons, but we still pay it. There is another difference between the American and British impositions—our duty has always been payable by the owners, proprietors, makers, compounders, or original or first vendors of the medicines sold, "either for foreign or home consumption," and there is no provision for rebate. The collectors of the Revenue have, therefore, no option but to require all dutiable medicines actually sold in this country (execution of an order in this country is a legal sale) to be stamped. When dutiable medicines are consigned to the agents of the makers abroad they may be sent unstamped, as consignment does not constitute legal sale. Most makers here object to export their medicines without the Government stamp, because they consider it a valuable part of the get-up. The recent American method gives them a point which they might follow up—viz., to secure a rebate to the value of the stamps. To this the chief objection is that it would require the sanction of Parliament, and any inquiry on the point would probably lead to the discovery that it was never the intention of the Legislature that the duty on medicines should be passed on from the maker or owner to the purchaser. It was initiated as a tax or disability upon unqualified dealers and the makers of patent medicines properly so-called, but it appears always to have been paid ultimately by the public. It is difficult to see how it could have been otherwise, for if makers had not added the three-halfpence to the shilling, but included it in the retail price of a shilling, they would have based their profits upon 10½% worth of the medicine. Notwithstanding all these considerations, we can assure colonial and Indian buyers that nothing can be done in the matter without amendment of the law, and the suggestion for that must come from the manufacturers. At present the Revenue weather-vanes are veering round to amendment of the Medicine-stamp Acts, and this may be one of the many questions to be considered. The stringent conditions of export, especially under the ailment-name condition which comes into force on March 31, certainly require attention, for a very large volume of export business is affected by it, and this part of the export-trade of the country has been flourishing so well during the past decade that it would be a thousand pities to interfere with it in any way.

The Pharmaceutical Benevolent Fund.

Now that stocktaking is over and business-men in the trade know how they stand, we hope they will give some

thought to the Benevolent Fund for the relief of unfortunate chemists and their widows and children. A sum of 255% is wanted to make good the deficit of 1903, when the calls upon the fund were exceptionally numerous and distressing. Mr. Michael Carteighe has given 100% to the fund this week, and doubtless there are others who could follow his example, but 1,000 new annual subscribers of 5s. or 10s. would ensure squaring accounts in the future—which is the most desirable method of ensuring efficiency. There is not a man in the trade who would miss 1% a week, and if every one gave this to the Benevolent Fund he would make scores less fortunate than himself comparatively happy.

The B.P.C. "Formulary."

There will be very general disappointment, if not disgust, in the trade at the manner in which the B.P.C. "Formulary" is being jockeyed out of existence by a section of the Pharmaceutical Council. The "Formulary" serves an exceedingly useful purpose, but because somebody on the Society's staff conceived the notion that the publication of books might be added to the Society's statutory functions, and embarked upon a venture, the extent not being realised by the Council, that body now appears to be committed to stamp two books with the Society's imprint, one of them "by authority." It is now sought to give the latter a practical character by absorbing the experience of the B.P.C. Formulary Committee. It is obvious that the B.P.C. Executive feel the position keenly, and the "Formulary" Committee resent the manner in which the strength and wealth of the Society are being used to appropriate the fruits of their gratuitous and successful labours. These facts do not appear on the surface, but those who have taken the trouble to read between the lines cannot have failed to recognise that influential members of the Pharmaceutical Council feel that they are being committed to a blunder (which is not yet irretrievable), and that the B.P.C. leaders require the support of the trade in maintaining the individuality of their work.

Our Prosperity Indexed.

The statistics of failures during 1903 should be some index of the country's prosperity. It is therefore interesting to note that the figures as compiled by "Kemp's Mercantile Gazette" disclose an increase in the totals of official bankruptcy in England and Wales, and a decrease in Scotland and Ireland. The bankruptcies in England and Wales were 4,259 during 1903, an increase of 39 on the previous year. In Scotland there was a decrease of 35 on the previous year's figures, and Ireland was apparently even more prosperous, for the decrease was 40. But a contemplation of the deeds of arrangement figures does not place Ireland in so roseate a light. The increase in deeds during 1903 was 111 on the figures of 1902 in the "distressful country," while in England and Wales the number of deeds increased by 3.6. In Scotland the figures for trust deeds (which are analogous to deeds of arrangement in England, Wales, and Ireland) showed a diminution of 42. On the whole, therefore, it appears as though Scotland had been the more prosperous country. The grocery and provision trades are still easily first as far as the number of failures are concerned. These trades show an increase on the previous year of 23 in bankruptcies, 53 in deeds, and 116 in bills of sale. The section in which we are specially interested, headed "Chemists and druggists" (but which includes doctors, veterinary surgeons, drysalters, dentists, &c.), shows an increase during 1903 of 15 in bankruptcies, a decrease of 18 in deeds, and an increase of 25 in bills of sale. To show the false impression which the heading "Chemists and druggists" creates, we have made an analysis of the bankruptcies of actual chemists and druggists during the

year, as reported in the columns of the *C. & D.*, and find that the number of qualified chemists who have become bankrupt is only about 30. Seven or eight failures traded as chemists, but were not qualified, but even adding these, little more than half the official figures (63) is obtained. The same thing occurs under deeds of arrangement. The official figures under this head are 42, which our analysis in accuracy reduces to 23, with half a dozen more for "druggists," "drug-dealers," and "drug-store proprietors."

A School Board Eye-ointment.

The "British Medical Journal" is somewhat indignant at the attitude of the London School Board in regard to the treatment of children, especially in respect to the eyes. The Board employs half-a-dozen examiners to detect cases of ocular defect and disease, and when found the children get cards advising the parents to seek medical advice as to the need of glasses, &c. The card bears a caution against glasses "as prescribed by the various sight-testing establishments, certified opticians, chemists, toy-shops, or any other than qualified medical men." This pleases our contemporary, but it objects to a postscript which appears on the back of one of the cards—viz.:

In most cases of pustular eye inflammation, irritable or sore eyelids in delicate children, a piece of the ointment, the size of a lentil, in each eye at bedtime will be found of benefit. Any chemist will supply it of the following composition: Powdered yellow oxide of mercury, 3 gr.; lanolin, 2 dr.; vaseline, to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Without calling in question the universal applicability of this School B and golden eye-ointment, the "B. M. J." doubts the desirability of this wholesale and indiscriminate mode of prescribing.

Pilewort Suppositories.

Some time ago (*C. & D.*, May 25, 1901) we referred to Sir James Sawyer's recommendation of pilewort-ointment in cases of hæmorrhoids and similar affections of the rectum and anal margins. The ointment was made by digesting pilewort with melted lard for twenty-four hours after the manner of savin-ointment. Sir James has now devised a formula for a pilewort suppository. We give his remarks as they appear in the "British Medical Journal":

To harden the ointment up to an adequate consistency for a suppository, I am accustomed to direct that one part by weight of spermaceti be mixed with four parts of the ointment, by fusion by heat. Of such a mixture $1\frac{1}{2}$ dr. is a serviceable quantity for a rectal suppository. In a mixture of spermaceti and unguentum ranunculi ficaria, in the proportion of 1 to 4, the melting point of the solidified mixture would be kept well below the normal temperature of the rectum: taking the melting point of spermaceti at 120° F., and that of the ointment at 83° F., the mixture of them here recommended would melt at a temperature of about 90.4° F., and it will be found in practice that a suppository so made will be sufficiently firm for easy introduction within the rectal cavity. The only reason why a rectal suppository should be sufficiently hard is, that it should be stiff enough to be easily placable in the site of its employment; once in that position, its qualities of softness and lowness of melting-point favour the application of the remedy it carries under conditions propitious for remedial action. For such a suppository the prescriber's formula may be as follows: Ung. ranunc. ficar. gr. lxxij, cetacei gr. xvij. Misce leni calore, et fiat suppositorium.

A New Scare.

One of the halfpenny London morning papers which makes a speciality of scares has discovered the deadliest poison. Wednesday's issue announced that

In a recent number of a scientific journal it was announced that a working chemist, in the course of some experiments in the treatment of metals with a view to finding a method of imparting to common substances an attractive, untarnishable surface, had discovered a new poison of so deadly a character that a single whiff of it would cause death and leave no trace. So far as the scientific world is concerned, the announcement seems to have attracted little attention. At any rate, it has not come officially before the notice of any of the learned societies.

To rectify the neglect of the learned Societies a repre-

sentative of the enterprising ha'porth interviewed "Mr. Brotherton, the chemist in question, whose laboratory is just off the Fulham Road." The representative discovered that Mr. Brotherton had been besieged by inquiries from the unscientific world regarding his discovery. The possession of the deadly secret appears to be coveted by "gentlemen—and ladies, too—who write a cultured hand and use note-paper of the best kind." Indeed, one letter, "bearing a crest," was received, asking for details in order that the effect of the poison might be tried on a dog, and offering to pay "any expense [trebly underlined] involved in the process of manufacture." We are left to assume that, for the benefit of humanity, Mr. Brotherton kept his secret intact. The deadly character of the discovery, however, was vouched for. According to Mr. Brotherton, the possibility of manufacturing the poison has long been known to chemists, but no other investigator has yet discovered how to make it. The discovery was an accident which involved the instantaneous death of a favourite cat of the discoverer's. The cat was very fond of sitting at his bench when he was at work, and it got a whiff of the poison (which, by the way, "is a form of arsenious gas") and died instantly.

Colonial and Foreign News.

THE SIBERIAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY has just been founded at Tomsk.

A CHANCE FOR INVESTIGATORS.—The Russian Imperial Ministry of Finance announces that a prize of 50,000 (equal to 5,300*l.*), to be allotted and payable July 1, 1905, is offered for the discovery of the best system of denaturing alcohol.

A ROUGH PASSAGE.—Mr. Charles W. White, the Indian representative of Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., who arrived at Bombay last month, interviewed on behalf of "The Advocate of India," gives a graphic account of the passage made by the *Osiris* when she had to take refuge in Corfu harbour for eighteen hours.

THE BELGIAN COMPANY established in Russia in 1902 for the purpose of producing glycerin proposes to identify itself with the Austrian company, the "Société Austro-Hongroise des glycéries pures et corps gras Industriels," and to acquire the interests of the same. The company will issue shares for 6,000,000*fr.* and debentures for 1,000,000*fr.*

ADVERTISING ALLCOCK'S PLASTER.—Recently the advertisement managers of two Hamburg journals were charged with publishing advertisements of Allcock's plaster without the composition being stated. They were acquitted, the Sheriff's Court finding the plaster to be a means of alleviating pain and not a remedy (*C. & D.*, page 571, October 3, 1903). The Public Prosecutor has appealed against the decision at the county court, with the result that the previous judgment has been quashed and each of the editors sentenced to a fine of 50*m.* (2*l.* 10*s.*), or five days' imprisonment, the Court stating that, according to the opinion of the Imperial Court, all medicinal preparations whose composition is not known are to be regarded as secret remedies.

MEDICINES FOR RUSSIA.—The Russian Minister of the Interior has permitted the following preparations to be imported:

- (1) "Chloretone inhalant," prepared by Parke, Davis & Co., to be sold only on doctor's prescription by chemists.
- (2) "Heil sable" skin-ointment, subject to advertisements and labels being approved by the medical "censure."
- (3) "Kraftzucker," subject to similar conditions.
- (4) "Natrium peptonatum Barella," a stomachic powder.
- (5) "Veritable grain de Santé" du docteur Frank, to be sold by druggists on doctor's prescription.
- (6) Liebe's "sagradawein" and "cascara-sagrada tablets," by Paul Liebe, of Dresden.
- (7) "Zoro chloretone," by Parke, Davis & Co., saleable only by chemists on doctors' orders.
- (8) "Ergot aseptic" and "ergot fluid extract," by Parke, Davis & Co. Conditions as above, on which terms also are admitted pilules végétales, by Cauvin, Paris.

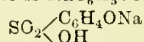
Sulphobenzoate of Sodium.

By HUGH WOODS, M.D., F.C.S.

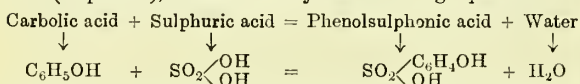
THE valuable properties of carbolic acid, formic acid, and sulphuric acid are so well known that a compound, composed of the whole three of them can hardly fail to be of interest to the medical profession. The properties of a compound may, of course, differ widely from those of its constituents; but where, as in this case, there is a comparatively simple combination of the constituent compounds, it may reasonably be expected that the combination will retain some of the characteristic properties of the constituents, more or less modified.

All three of the substances alluded to above have important antiseptic properties, for instance, and, as might be imagined, so has the combination of them to which I wish to call attention, though I am not at present prepared to say exactly to what extent. The compound, containing carbolic, formic, and sulphuric acids, to which I desire to call attention, may be called "sulphobenzoate of sodium." It can easily be prepared as follows: Take sodium sulphocarbonate (B.P.) and sodium formate in the proportions of their molecular weights, boil them together in pure distilled water, evaporate the solution carefully, cool, and collect and dry the crystals deposited. The white crystalline deposit thus obtained is sulphobenzoate of sodium, and consists of very fine silky needles.

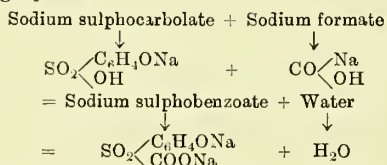
This sulphobenzoate of sodium, like the sulphocarbonate of sodium of the British Pharmacopœia, belongs to a class of compounds known chemically as "sulphonates." Sulphocarbonate of sodium is, according to modern nomenclature, more properly called sodium phenolparasulphonate, and similarly this sulphobenzoate of sodium may be styled sodium benzoylparasulphonate. The chemical formula of sodium sulphocarbonate is $\text{NaC}_6\text{H}_5\text{SO}_3$ or



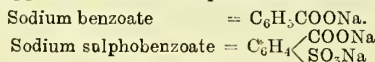
It is formed by the direct action of sulphuric acid on carbolic acid (or phenol), as indicated by the following equation:



When sulphocarbonate of sodium is boiled with formate of sodium, the reaction which takes place is indicated by the following equation:



The relationship of this sulphobenzoate of sodium to sodium benzoate appears when we compare their formulæ thus:



From this it is seen that one atom of hydrogen in benzoate of sodium is represented in sulphobenzoate of sodium by the group NaSO_3 .

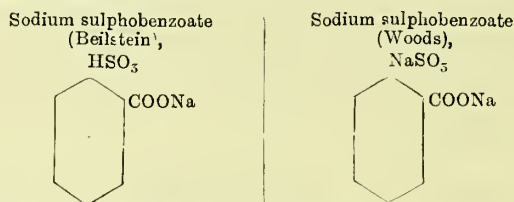
There are, however, three isomeric sulphobenzoates, but the one described is the parasulphobenzoate, just as the sulphocarbonate (B.P.) is the parasulphocarbonate, or at least chiefly so. Parasulphobenzoic acid is described in Roscoe and Schorlemmer's "Treatise on Chemistry," vol. iii, part iv., page 273, as obtained by the oxidation of paratoluenesulphonic acid, according to Remsen, and as formed by the action of alcoholic sulphurous acid on paradiazo-benzoic acid, according to Vollbrecht and Wiesinger. It is described as readily soluble in water, as crystallising in needles which are not deliquescent, and as forming terephthalic acid with potassium formate. Potassium parasulphobenzoate is, in the same place, described as forming transparent, easily soluble needles, but its chemical formula is not given. The sodium salt is not mentioned in that treatise, but the description of the potassium salt would

apply to the sodium sulphobenzoate prepared by my method, as regards appearance and solubility. The two other isomeric sulphobenzoic acids, the orthosulphobenzoic acid and the metasulphobenzoic acid, are known as well as the parasulphobenzoic acid. Closely related to orthosulphobenzoic acid is the well-known substance "Saccharin," as it has been rather unfortunately named. Saccharin is the anhydride of sulphamidobenzoic acid, or benzoylsulphimide. When heated with hydrochloric acid, saccharin is converted into orthosulphobenzoic acid.

I need not, however, at present discuss very deeply the chemistry of the sulphobenzoates or benzoylsulphonates, but it is important to mention that the sodium parasulphobenzoate prepared by the method which I have described is not identical with the parasulphobenzoate of Beilstein's Handbook. According to that authority, sodium parasulphobenzoate would be represented by the formula $\text{NaC}_6\text{H}_5\text{SO}_3 + 2\frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$, corresponding to a molecular weight of 263, and a percentage of sulphur of the theoretical amount 11.89.

The crystals prepared by my method have, however, the formula $\text{Na}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SO}_3 + 2\frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$, with a molecular weight of 291 and a percentage of sulphur amounting to 10.975 (as estimated carefully by my friend Mr. McConnell, F.C.S.), which is close enough to the theoretical 10.99 per cent. required by the latter formula.

The difference between the two compounds, apart from water of crystallisation, is shown by the two following constitutional formulæ:



The one is evidently an acid, and the other a normal salt. It may therefore be most accurate to describe the compound to which I am directing attention as disodiumbenzoylparasulphonate. As, however, for purposes of medical prescription one must either give the compound some name as stupid as that of its relative "saccharin," or else abbreviate its full chemical designation. I think that for the present it may well be called "sodium sulphobenzoate," since that name conveniently indicates its near relationship to the sodium sulphocarbonate of the British Pharmacopœia, and cannot at present cause any confusion with any other substance medicinally employed. The mode of preparing sulphobenzoate of soda from sulphocarbonate of soda and formate of soda, which I have described above, makes its manufacture very easy, and seems preferable to any mode of preparation which I am aware of. The crystals thus obtained are well formed, and keep indefinitely without deliquescence or change of any kind. I have not been able to find any mention of the salt as being used in medicine or for other practical purpose hitherto. My own experiments show the salt to be devoid of any unpleasantness and to be free from any poisonous effects in all reasonable doses. Given in 15-gr. to 30-gr. doses every three or four hours, I have obtained unmistakably good results in cases where the urine was foul-smelling in connection with rheumatic fever, and in various affections of the bladder and urinary organs.

As a means of correcting septic and gouty conditions of the urine and urinary organs, I believe it to be of considerable value, or at all events well worth a full trial. I have not yet investigated its medicinal properties in other respects sufficiently to give definite opinions on them, but the chemical constitution of the salt and my scanty experience of it lead me to think that it is likely to be of use in several connections.

The sulphocarbonate of soda from which the above compound is formed is already gaining a wider recognition of its undoubtedly valuable remedial properties. My own experience has proved to my satisfaction that as a gastric and intestinal antiseptic, in typhoid fever and allied conditions, gastritis, fermentative dyspepsia, &c., the sulphocarbonates of soda, bismuth, &c., are of great value. The mild laxative effect of sulphocarbonate of soda adds to its efficiency in some cases.

Winter Session.

Society of Chemical Industry.

LONDON SECTION.

A MEETING of this section was held at Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., on January 4, Mr. Walter F. Reid (the Chairman) presiding. After the minutes had been read, the CHAIRMAN called on Dr. Divers to read a paper by Dr. Chikashigé and a pupil on

THE DEFECTS OF UNCARBURETTED WATER-GAS AS A FUEL FOR LABORATORY USE.

The matter is one of considerable importance in Japan and countries where other laboratory-fuels are not readily obtainable, and the conclusion the authors arrive at is that water-gas is not suitable for laboratory-purposes. The paper detailed a number of experiments made to determine whether the carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the gas burn together or one after the other, the result being to establish the fact that the carbon monoxide is first consumed. The advantages of water-gas were stated to be the readiness with which it is made, and the fact that it needs no air-draught when it is burnt. The flame also has a much higher temperature and reducing-power than a coal-gas flame, but these are rather reasons against its use, owing to the corroding action on metal laboratory-vessels. The disadvantages of water-gas as a laboratory-fuel are the smallness of its flame as compared with coal-gas; its corroding action on nickel, copper, and platinum baths; its poisonous character; and the fact that the air-holes of the Bunsen burner rapidly become stopped up with carbon. The escape of carbon monoxide in the air contrasts very unfavourably with coal-gas, and necessarily produces more contamination of the air. Cast-iron vessels, it was mentioned, stand the action of a water-gas flame very well; but, as noted above, copper, nickel, and platinum corrode, rapidly becoming brittle and suddenly breaking apart.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. HEHNER said the disadvantages of water-gas would probably apply in a less degree to the mixtures supplied by the gas-companies. He expressed the opinion, however, that a chemical laboratory is the healthiest spot in the world; the various emanations seem to have no effect on the worker, and even things which should be injurious do him no harm.

Mr. DAVID HOWARD hoped the subject would not be abandoned, as there is a wide use for small flames in gas-furnaces. He suggested that the old-fashioned Argand burner with a metal-tube chimney be tried with water-gas. The hot air would be in greater mass, but he thought admirable results might be obtained.

After a few other speakers had made remarks, Dr. DIVERS replied, and promised to convey Mr. Howard's suggestion to the authors of the paper.

THE RAPID ESTIMATION OF MERCURY.

The next paper was by Mr. B. F. HOWARD, son of Mr. David Howard, and referred to a process of quickly estimating mercury by means of hypophosphorous acid. Mr. Howard said the distillation-process for estimating mercury takes about three hours from start to finish, but is generally used, as it is considered that processes in which reducing-agents are employed are unsuitable. When stannous chloride is used the results are variable. Processes with phosphorous and hypophosphorous acids have been proposed, the mercury salt being reduced to calomel and weighed. The author, however, considers that a reducing-process is preferable in which metallic mercury is obtained. Such a method is that in which excess of hypophosphorous acid is employed, and the estimation has also the advantage of being rapidly performed. The process answers well for the assay of calomel, corrosive sublimate, ammonio mercuric chloride, mercuric nitrate, and mercuric oxide. Applied to the estimation of mercury in calomel the method is as follows: Weigh out about 5 grams of calomel in a 100-c.c. lipped flask, stir in about 20 c.c. of hypophosphorous acid, and gently warm. The mercury is quickly reduced to the metallic state, washed by decantation with water, alcohol, and ether, and dried. It is necessary to wash out all the

hypophosphorous acid with water before adding alcohol or lime, which is generally present in the acid, would be precipitated with the mercury. The results obtained are a little below the calculated yield, owing to the volatile nature of freshly precipitated mercury, but the figures are fairly constant. The mercury is reduced in about twenty minutes, and the metallic globule can be weighed within forty-five minutes of commencing the assay. Mr. Howard gave details of many experiments he had made before he arrived at the above process. Applied to ammonio-mercuric chloride the results are invariably from 1 to 2 per cent. lower than calculated, due to the small quantities of ammonium chloride always present in white precipitate. In the case of mercuric nitrate the salt should be mixed with water and the acid added slowly, otherwise the action is so violent as to cause loss by spluttering. The process answers well for mercuric oxide and mercuric chloride. In the latter case the corrosive sublimate is first reduced to calomel and then to the metallic state. The bead of mercury must in all cases be obtained in a bright condition. The process does not answer for estimating the mercury in mercuric iodide, the failure being apparently due to the difficulty in getting a suitable iodine-absorber. Zinc is unsatisfactory.

In the discussion Mr. TYRER said it was unfortunate that the results were below the calculated yield, but the rapidity of the method was a recommendation. He noticed that the results were uniform within limits, and a worker would naturally use similar precautions. He had used the process for some time, and could only account for the discrepancies by volatility of mercury at the temperature of boiling water. In regard to the estimation of the red iodide, the B.P. method leads to as much error as the lime-process, but the hypophosphorous-acid reduction could be carried out successfully by the use of magnesium-dust. After weighing the metallic mercury, it is advisable to ignite, in case any insoluble residue is present.

Mr. HEHNER would like to have suggestions as to the rapid estimation of mercury salts in mixtures. He had found the hydroxylamine-reduction process successful, but that reagent is too expensive for general use, and he had discarded it in favour of the sulphite method, which is very accurate if no other metals are present.

Dr. SILBERRAD said he had performed thousands of mercury-estimations by the distillation-process, and never took more than fifteen minutes for each assay; in fact, recently, when pressed for time, he did five estimations in the hour. He uses a Berlin porcelain crucible with a gold cover. The cover has in it a depression, which is filled with water. One gram of the ore or mercury salt is mixed with 5 grams of litharge, and the crucible placed in a hole in a piece of asbestos millboard. Then, on applying heat, the mercury is volatilised and sticks on the gold lid, which is dried with blotting-paper and weighed.

Mr. HARRIS said he had found the hydroxylamine-reduction method answer very well. It takes about ten minutes to reduce the mercury.

Another member said he had performed numberless estimations of the mercury in cinnabar by the distillation-process. He did not use a specially made gold lid to the crucible; he found a sovereign answer the purpose splendidly. The coin had only to be heated to restore its face-value.

Mr. GRIFFITHS, whose experience in mercury-estimations extended to twenty years, spoke of the volatility of mercury. He had noticed that some bottles of iodine exposed to the fumes of mercury in his laboratory repeatedly became coated with films of mercuric iodide.

Dr. DIVERS suggested that the mercury globule be washed on a porous tile, the solvents being added drop by drop. As regards the volatility of mercury, this could easily be demonstrated by boiling mercury with water in a vessel to which a reflux condenser is fitted. After a time mercury collects in the condenser. It would be well to see that the hypophosphorous acid does not contain a mineral acid, as hydrochloric or sulphuric acid would interfere with the reducing action. He suggested that hydroxylamine sulphate, which readily forms large crystals, could be made at a cheaper rate than the hydrochloride.

Mr. CRESSWELL thought it possible Mr. Howard's results were accurate, notwithstanding that they were not the theoretical figures. There might be some other substance present in the mercury salt.

The CHAIRMAN also spoke as to the volatility of mercury, and Mr. HOWARD briefly replied.

The last paper was one by Mr. Arthur Marshall on "The Determination of Moisture in Nitro-glycerin Explosives." An aluminium dish with glass-cone cover of standard measurements is used, and the ground and sifted explosive is heated on a hot plate. The paper, which was a contribution from the Royal Gunpowder Works, was rather freely criticised.

Exeter Association of Chemists and Druggists.

A MEETING was held on Tuesday evening, January 5. The President (Mr. F. W. Vinden) presided, and there were also present Messrs. D. Reid, J. Harris, T. C. Milton, W. Aplin, and F. Sloman. Various matters affecting local trade interests were discussed, and having regard to the general feeling expressed, it was resolved to revive the annual dinner. Wednesday, February 3, was provisionally selected as the date, and a committee was appointed to make the arrangements. A communication was received from the Plymouth and District Association expressing a wish to visit Exeter for their annual summer excursion. It was decided to reply that the Exeter chemists would be very glad to have the opportunity of welcoming the Plymouth members, and to make arrangements for showing them various places and objects of interest in the city.

Hull Chemists' Trade Association.

A MEETING was held on Tuesday evening, December 5, in a room lent by Mr. Chapman, at 54 Charles Street. Mr. Whitlam presided. The greater part of the business of the evening referred to combined buying, contracts for the year having been already completed in the case of cotton-wool, lint, glycerin, camphor, and little liver pills. The Secretary was authorised to obtain tenders for the year's supply of perfumes (6*z.* and 1*s.*), toilet soap (2*z.*), and Liebig's extract. Several other lines were also bought for immediate requirements. The question of federation with kindred associations was also discussed, but from lack of time no definite result was arrived at. The SECRETARY reported that he had had occasion to write to the P.A.T.A. respecting a breach of their rules by Taylor's Drug Company, who had at one of their branches during Christmas week "Papier Poudre" marked 4½*d.* and 9*d.* A reply from Mr. Glyn-Jones was read, in which the suggestion of a penalty in cases of breach was referred to. The meeting considered that a penalty would no doubt tend to more prompt posting up of the various branches by the large stores of new additions to the list. It was reported that the Hull Drug Company are still exposing "Papier Poudre" in their window at 4½*d.*, and the Secretary was instructed to report this to the P.A.T.A.

Legal Reports.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

CAMPHORATED OIL.

AT Brierley Hill on December 31, Messrs. Cox (Limited), wholesale druggists, High Street, Quarry Bank, were summoned for selling to Elizabeth Swayne, a grocer and provision dealer, camphorated oil which was not of the quality demanded, the sample being 14 per cent. deficient in camphor; and for selling to an inspector camphorated oil which was 22 per cent. deficient in camphor. Mrs. Swayne purchased the oil for the purpose of trade, and it was labelled "Camphorated oil." For the defence, it was submitted that deficiency was due to the carelessness of persons leaving the cork out of the bottle, thereby causing the camphor to evaporate. The Stipendiary imposed fines amounting to 5*l.* 10*s.*

SWEET NITRE.

AT Bradford on December 31, Joseph Lambert, grocer, of Farsley, was fined 20*s.* and costs for selling sweet nitre which on analysis was found to be absolutely devoid of ethyl nitrite. The defendant's solicitor raised the plea of lack of knowledge that sweet nitre was subject to evaporation. He said he believed that fully 75 per cent. of the retail dealers were

ignorant of the fact that sweet nitre was subject to a high degree of evaporation on exposure to light or air. His client had sold sweet nitre for twenty-eight years, but had now determined to have nothing further to do with it.

BEEF AND YEAST EXTRACTS.

AT the Liverpool Police Court, on Wednesday, January 6, before the Stipendiary (Mr. W. J. Stewart), David Pearson, trading as the Anglo-American Food Company, Gildart Street, Liverpool, was summoned for selling extract-of-beef which was not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded. Mr. Trubshaw prosecuted, and Dr. Thomas (barrister) defended. According to the case for the prosecution an 8-oz. jar of Liebig's extract-of-beef was purchased from the defendant on November 13. The jar bore a label stating that it was "Liebig's Canadian extract-of-beef, consisting solely of the juice of the finest beef, extracted by hydraulic pressure and gentle heat," 40 lbs. of the beef being required for 1 lb. of the extract. Dr. J. Campbell Brown and Mr. W. Collingwood Williams (public analysts) had analysed the substance, and they were of opinion that it contained a foreign ingredient, half its weight being yeast-extract. Dr. Campbell Brown said the sample contained practically equal parts of pure beef-extract and yeast-extract. He had put the sample to four tests, including Searl's method, and they all coincided.

Dr. Thomas said that the extract was purchased in April as pure beef. There was no talk of maimite then. When there became a doubt as to the purity of the extract it was recalled from the purchasers. Searl's test had been applied, and nothing wrong was found. Defendant wished to vindicate his character in the matter, and that he in no way sanctioned the adulteration, if there was any.

Mr. Collingwood Williams deposed that Searl's test was empirical; if used in an irregular way, irregular results would be obtained. For the defence, Mr. Davies, B.Sc., F.I.C., said he had tested the extract by Searl's method and had not found anything impure in it. Until Searl published his test no one had any idea how the extract could be tested to get reliable results. No means were known of demonstrating that yeast was present. Meat-extract was a very complex substance, and as a rule all tests were fallacious. Dr. Thomas remarked that the adulteration had only been known to the trade for a few months. The defendant did not know the extract, which came from a reputable firm in London, had been adulterated.

The Stipendiary said the law gave abundant power for persons to protect themselves in cases of that kind by securing a warranty. If that power was not exercised, then a person was void of defence as if he had adulterated it himself. When a new type of thing was put on the market with a new name, &c., common-sense would suggest that it should be tested. Defendant was fined 5*l.*, and ten guineas costs.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re WAITER BROOKS, 3 Bradshaw Street, Heywood, Lancashire, Botanical Brewer and Cordial-manufacturer.—The liabilities amount to 174*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, and assets to 293*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, or a surplus of 122*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

Re JOHN THOMAS BEYNON, Church Street, Monmouth, Chemist and Druggist.—A meeting of creditors was held at Newport on January 1. Particulars of the statement of affairs were published in last week's issue (page 8). Debtor gave evidence as set forth in the statement, and there not being a quorum present, no resolutions were passed, and the estate remains in the hands of the Official Receiver.

Re REES MARTIN LEWIS, late of 119 South Lambeth Road, S.W., Chemist and Druggist.—The creditors interested in this failure met on January 4, at the London Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. G. W. Chapman, Official Receiver. The debtor, who filed his own petition on December 3, states that he commenced business at 119 South Lambeth Road in 1895, with a capital of 60*l.* advanced by his father, who had since lent further sums, and is now a creditor for 220*l.* For four years he traded with success, but subsequently the turnover diminished owing to store competition and trade depression. During the last twelve months executions have been repeatedly levied, and in September, on the landlord threatening to distrain, he (debtor) sold the business for

50%. The reasons assigned for the failure are want of capital, trade depression, store competition, and family illness. In the absence of any offer, the case was left with the Official Receiver to be wound up in bankruptcy, the debtor's public examination being fixed for January 29. The accounts show liabilities 469*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, against assets 40*l.* 18*s.* The following are the principal creditors:

	<i>Unsecured.</i>		
	£	s.	d.
Cross, Miss E., Islington ...	10	0	0
Davy, Hill & Co., Park Street, Southwark	13	19	1
Griffiths, Richard, Aberdare ...	25	0	0
Harmer, G. S., Eccleston Square, S.W. ...	31	0	0
Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, Bishopsgate Street Without ...	24	4	2
Idris & Co., Camden Town ...	12	6	0
King, R., & Co., Camden Town ...	10	0	0
Lewis, Rees, Aberdare ...	220	4	0
Sanger, J., & Sons, Winslow Street, W. ...	15	0	0
Tidman & Son, Bushell Street, E. ...	18	4	4

Re HENRY WELLS BUER, 30 Grenfell Road, Maidenhead, Patent medicine Vendor.—This debtor filed his own petition, and has lodged accounts showing liabilities to unsecured creditors amounting to 1,063*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, and net assets estimated to realise 190*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* The Official Receiver, in his observations, states that the debtor commenced business at Maidenhead thirty years ago. The unsecured liabilities have been contracted in respect of goods obtained, money borrowed, advertising, &c. The Official Receiver has given instructions for a sale to be held of the debtor's stock and furniture. At the date of the receiving-order the chief creditor had taken proceedings against the debtor. The cause of insolvency is stated to be "the proceedings taken against me by Mrs. Williams." The debtor has only kept, in the way of books, debit and credit ledgers, and states that he became aware of his insolvency on December 10, 1903.

Gazette.

Partnerships Dissolved.

Brummerstaedt, H. W., and Luders, W., under the style of Brummerstaedt & Luders, Cross Lane, St. Mary-at-Hill, London, E.C., chemical agents and importers.

Coghill, A. F., Coghill, P. de G., Coghill, N. A., and Coghill, F. H., under the style of H. Coghill & Son, Liverpool and Newcastle under-Lyme, borax manufacturers and merchants; so far as regards A. F. Coghill.

Manton, J. A., and Craig, W., under the style of Manton & Craig, Sheffield, physicians, &c.

Marshall, J., and Marshall, D. W., under the style of Marshall Brothers, and the Llama Toilet Manufacturing Company, Sunderland, dry-store dealers, &c.

Mascall, G. S., Clark, L., and Mascall, J., under the style of G. S. Mascall & Clark, Queen's Buildings, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C., surgical and veterinary instrument makers.

Nuttall, C. D., and Gibbons, W. E., under the style of Nuttall & Gibbons, Leicester, general medical practitioners.

Peat, A. R., Peat, J. E., Devitt, A., Duval, S. S., and Peat, A. E., under the style of Lewis & Peat, Mincing Lane, E.C., produce-brokers; so far as regards S. S. Duval.

Robertson, F. M., and Graydon, A., under the style of Robertson & Graydon, Colville Road and Talbot Road, Bayswater, W., general medical practitioners.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Silver, George James, Aldridge, Staffordshire, surgeon.

ORDER MADE ON APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

Thomson, Malcolm Edward, Northampton, surgeon; discharge suspended for two years, ending October 21, 1905.

Trust Deed.

Cruickshank, John, 580 Dobbie's Lane, Glasgow, and residing at 73 Oxford Street, Glasgow, chemist, has executed a trust deed in favour of Mr. David Ritchie, 1 Polmuir Road, Aberdeen, to whom claims should be forwarded forthwith.

New Companies & Company News.

J. H. VAVASSEUR & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 125,000*l.*, in 17 shares (25,000 preference). Objects: To acquire the business of produce and general merchants, planters, &c., carried on by H. Vavasour and R. B. Heinekey at 4 Lloyd's Avenue, E.C., as "J. H. Vavasour & Co.," to cultivate tea, coffee, cinchona, and other produce, and to carry on the general business of tea planters, growers, winnors, and buyers of and dealers in all kinds of vegetable, mineral, or other produce of the soil, &c. No initial public issue. H. Vavasour and R. B. Heinekey are permanent governing directors. Special qualification, 1,000*l.* Remuneration, 1,000*l.* each per annum. Registered office, 4 Lloyd's Avenue, E.C.

MARSHALL'S DRUG-STORES (LIMITED).—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 17 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, grocers, wine and spirit merchants, chemical-manufacturers, and dealers, drysalters, perfumers, makers of and dealers in proprietary articles and electrical, chemical, photographic, surgical, and scientific apparatus and materials, &c. The first subscribers are: J. Marshall, 1 St. Vincent Street, Sunderland, drug-store dealer; Mrs. E. Marshall, 1 St. Vincent Street, Sunderland; J. Wallace, 48 West Sunnyside, Sunderland; W. Wormald, South View Terrace, Yeaton, Yorks, cashier; T. Wormald, Town Street, Yeaton, Yorks, provision-dealer; J. A. Wormald, Netherfield Terrace, Yeaton, music teacher; and T. Parsons, Netherfield Terrace, Yeaton, Yorks. No initial public issue. J. Marshall is sole managing director. Qualification of ordinary directors, 100*l.*

ARTHUR H. COX & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 15,000*l.*, in 17 shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on at St. Martin's Place, Brighton, as "Arthur H. Cox & Co.," to adopt an agreement between F. W. Welch, T. Eggar, and W. H. Cox of the first part, A. H. Cox, E. E. Cox, Harriett T. Welch, Maud M. Cox, Elise F. Cox, W. H. Cox, and F. W. Welch of the second part, and the company of the third part, and to carry on the business of chemists, druggists, drysalters, pill and tablet manufacturers, manufacturers, importers, and exporters of and dealers in salts, alkalies, drugs, medicines, and surgical appliances, &c. The first subscribers are: A. H. Cox, St. Martin's Place, Brighton, pill-manufacturer; E. E. Cox, St. Martin's Place, Brighton, pill-manufacturer; Miss M. M. Cox, 35 Wellington Road, Brighton; Miss E. F. Cox, 35 Wellington Road, Brighton; W. H. Cox, 13 Clifford's Inn, W.C., gentleman; F. W. Welch, 7 Florence Road, Brighton, auctioneer; and R. Otter, Heathfield, St. Leonards Road, Hove, clerk. No initial public issue. The first directors are A. H. Cox, E. E. Cox, and F. W. Welch. Qualification, 500*l.* Remuneration as fixed by the company. A. H. Cox and E. E. Cox are managing directors.

SCRUBB & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 166,000*l.*, in 17 shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on at Guildford Street, Lambeth Road, S.E., and elsewhere, under the style of "Scrubb & Co.," to adopt an agreement with A. S. Albert, G. B. Francis, and W. H. Francis of the one part, and the company of the other part, to manufacture and deal in "Scrubb's cloudy fluid ammonia," antiseptic skin soap, and other preparations, and to carry on the business of chemists, druggists, oil and colour men, manufacturers of and dealers in toilet-requisites and proprietary articles, cardboard, wood, and metal box manufacturers, perfume-manufacturers, &c. The first subscribers are: A. S. Albert, Guildford Street, Lambeth Road, S.E., manufacturing chemist; J. White, L.L.D., Ludgate Circus, E.C., solicitor; A. E. Leonard, Ludgate Circus, E.C., solicitor; G. B. Francis, Guildford Street, Lambeth, S.E., manufacturing chemist; W. H. Francis, Guildford Street, Lambeth, S.E., manufacturing chemist; F. Stanley, 45 Ludgate Hill, E.C., solicitor; P. Hedderwick, 45 Ludgate Hill, E.C., solicitor. No initial public issue. The first directors are A. S. Albert, W. H. Francis, G. B. Francis, and H. B. Gross. Qualification, 1,000*l.*; remuneration, as fixed by the company. Registered office Guildford Street, Lambeth, S.E.

LONDON PRODUCE CLEARING-HOUSE.—The directors recommend the following dividends: 4*s.* 6*d.* per share on the ordinary shares, making, with the interim dividend, 12 per cent. per annum, and 25*l.* per share on the founders' shares, carrying forward about 11,800*l.*, as against 10,500*l.* last year.

SCRUBB & Co. (LIMITED).—The business of Scrubb's Cloudy Fluid Ammonia and Antiseptic Skin-soap, carried on at Guildford Street, Lambeth, S.E., has been converted into a limited company under the name of "Scrubb & Co. (Limited)." No shares will be offered to the public, the whole of the issued capital having been subscribed privately, and the new company will retain the services of the whole of their former staff.

VINOLIA COMPANY (LIMITED).—The report for the year ended August 31 last states that the net profit for the year was 18,802*l.*; the balance brought forward was 126*l.*, making a total of 18,928*l.* Interim dividends at 6 per cent. per annum for the three quarters to May 31, 1903, have been paid on the ordinary shares, and the directors now recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares to August 31 last at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, making 8 per cent. for the year, placing to reserve 2,000*l.*, income-tax account (balance) 158*l.*, and carrying forward 520*l.* An extra room to hold 200 frames and another crutching-plant have been provided. The soap-boiling house is being enlarged, and arrangements are being made for putting in some half-dozen more large coppers. The Vinolia works, both at Kentish Town and Stratford, are insufficient for all the requirements of the company; no further growth in them beyond what the present alterations allow is possible, and the directors are negotiating for additional premises.

PARKE'S DRUG-STORES (LIMITED).—The report of the directors for the year ending September 30, 1903, states that during the year a branch was opened at 112 Uxbridge Road, West Ealing; another store was opened at 5 Station Parade, Hampstead, in October; and the warehouses and laboratories at 65 Harmond Street, N.W., have now been stocked and equipped, and are working satisfactorily. The profit-and-loss account shows profit of 8,375*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* and 520*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* from investments. Management expenses, including directors' fees, salaries, and general expenses, amounted to 2,996*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, while 332*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* was paid for legal and special expenses, and 912*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* for repairs and renewals. The directors have appropriated out of the profits 702*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* to the fixture depreciation and reserve fund, and 300*l.* to establish a stock reserve fund. The reserve funds stand at 9,380*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* The available net balance for the year is 4,899*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, out of which interim dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum have been paid. It is now recommended that a final dividend of 3 per cent. be paid on the ordinary shares for the half-year, making 6 per cent. for the year, leaving a balance of 132*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* to be carried forward to next account. The retiring directors, Mr. P. Warnford-Davis and Mr. Andrew Chatto, offer themselves for re-election. The balance-sheet shows the subscribed capital of the company to be 66,012*l.* 5*s.*, and the amount due to creditors is 11,867*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* The assets are as follows: Goodwill account, 12,150*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*; leases, investment account, 9,119*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*; sundry debtors and debit balances, 1,593*l.* 1*s.*; cash at bankers and in hand, 4,187*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; stock-in-trade, 32,819*l.* 4*s.*; plant, fixtures, and fittings at head office, laboratories, warehouses, and thirty branches, 29,420*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*

Births.

ANTCLIFFE.—On December 18, 1903, at Roe Lane, Ritsmoor, Sheffield, the wife of Herbert Antcliffe, chemist and druggist (dispenser to the Sheffield Board of Guardians), of a son.

BLAKER.—On December 10, at Cradock, Cape Colony, the wife (late Nurse Watt, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire) of Mr. Ernest J. Blaker, chemist and druggist (Great Britain), late of Midhurst, Sussex, England, of a daughter.

FURNESS.—On January 2, the wife of J. M. Furness, chemist and druggist, Fitzwilliam Street, Sheffield, of a son.

GREAVES.—On January 3, at 163 Cemetery Road, Sheffield, the wife of R. B. Greaves, M.B., B.S., chemist and druggist, of a daughter.

Marriages.

HUNT—THORNTON.—At Scarborough, on December 26, Harold Edward Hunt, chemist and druggist, Scarborough, to Clara Anne, third daughter of Mr. Jas. Thornton, of Waverley Hotel, Scarborough, and Maude's Hotel, Halifax.

SHARP—PARK.—On January 1, at the North British Hotel, Aberdeen, by the Rev. R. Goodwillie, Stricken, John Sharp, chemist and druggist, 42 George Street, Aberdeen, to Bella, third daughter of the late George Park, proprietor of the North British Hotel.

WHYTE—LIGHTFOOT.—At St. Matthias' Church, Nottingham, on January 4 M. S. Whyte to Florence Ethel, daughter of Mr. Arthur Lightfoot, drug-store proprietor, 57 Gordon Road, Nottingham.

Deaths.

BILLAMY.—At his residence, 179 Holderness Road, Hull, on January 3, Mr. Lawrence Marshall Billamy, chemist and druggist.

EVANS.—On December 30, suddenly, from syncope, Mr. John Watkin Morgan Evans, chemist and druggist, for fifteen years dispenser at Swansea Hospital.

EYRE.—At Ipswich, on January 2, Mr. Henry Reynolds Eyre, chemist and druggist, aged fifty-nine. Mr. Eyre first carried on a business in Tackel Street, which he had inherited from his father. He soon acquired a competency and retired some eighteen years ago. He was an ardent collector of old prints, and in one book which he possessed were extracts of all the curiosities of Poor-law administration ever since the passing of the Act in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The administration of the Poor Law was, indeed, the principal way in which Mr. Eyre connected himself with public affairs. He was for many years a member of the Board of Guardians for the parish of St. Lawrence, where his good sense and equanimity formed an example for others to follow. Mr. Eyre was Vice-Chairman of the Board, and his generous desire to afford relief was regulated by an intimate knowledge of the particulars of all cases that came before the Board.

MATHER.—At Laboratory House, Haddington, on January 1, Dr. John Mather, aged eighty-eight. Dr. Mather owned a chemist's shop in Haddington for many years, but disposed of the business two or three years ago to Mr. William Leslie, chemist and druggist.

MAY.—On November 10, at Forest Hill, Sandford, Tasmania, William May, aged eighty-seven. Mr. May was born at Henley, Oxfordshire, and from 1836 to 1838 was an assistant with Messrs. Allen & Hanbury, Plough Court, E.C. Some interesting reminiscences of this period were published in the *C. & D.* April 30, 1898. Mr. May emigrated to South Australia in 1839 with his father, and engaged in farming. In 1874 a move was made to Tasmania, and at a farm on Frederick Henry Bay, near Sandford, Mr. May resided till his death.

MORGAN.—Suddenly, on December 30, at Newton, near Wigan, Mr. A. E. Morgan, manager at Newton for Mr. A. Peake, chemist and druggist, of Wigan, aged 60.

PAPE.—At Helmsley, Yorks, on December 23, Mr. Tom Pape, chemist and druggist, aged sixty.

PEARCE.—At Penryn, Cornwall, on January 3, Mr. Thomas Pearce, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-nine. Mr. Pearce was universally popular, his genial disposition having endeared him to all his friends. He was a bachelor, and resided with his spinster sister, who survives him.

POWELL.—At Portman Square, W., on December 25, Mr. Edward Foley Powell, chemist and druggist, aged sixty.

THICKITT.—At Sheffield, on December 18, Mr. Robert Thickitt, chemist and druggist, aged seventy.

WHEATLEY.—At his residence, Springfield, Queen's Road, Edgerton, Huddersfield, on December 30, Mr. Charles Wheatley, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-six. Mr. Wheatley established the business of wholesale chemist at present carried on in King Street, but retired some three or four years ago. He was formerly in partnership with Mr. Higgins, the business being carried on under the style of Wheatley & Higgins, but the latter gentleman retired about twelve years ago. Mr. Wheatley was highly respected and esteemed by a wide circle of friends. He leaves a grown-up family.

Stamped-medicine Notes.

Glasgow Chemists and the Acts.

A committee of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Chemists' Trade Association has been studying recent developments in the administration of the Acts, and we have received a statement in regard to the matter. It is objected that the Inland Revenue authorities should take the powers of a legislative council instead of acting as an executive for the administering of the law. Further, it is argued that a chemist who, say three years ago, had certain labels marked as exempt from duty, should not now be exposed to the danger of a heavy fine for selling articles so labelled, especially as the Acts under which the Inland Revenue are exercising their powers are so old. What Glasgow chemists desire is a definite reading of the law, and not merely a series of concessions such as have been granted recently. They condemn the Revenue authorities' vacillating policy as creating uncertainty in the position and leaving retailers in a continual quandary. While a period of grace has been granted till March 31, the fear remains that that interregnum does not mean that the chemist who retails drugs represented to be a cure for any trouble will be free from the danger of penalty. The articles which are now ostracised are so numerous that the retailer is placed in a real difficulty. I am assured (continues our correspondent) that Glasgow chemists are by no means going to allow the matter to rest. Their committee is working conjointly with the Glasgow Grocers' Association, as many grocers are also laid under the ban of the Inland Revenue authorities. For the protection of the grocers the Association has issued the following circular to the members:

MEDICINE STAMP ACT, 1783.

DEAR SIR,—I have been instructed by the Executive of the Association to draw your attention to the recent activity of the Inland Revenue authorities in connection with the administration of this Act. On and after the 31st inst. the provisions of the Act will be most stringently applied, and various articles which have hitherto been exempt from stamp-duty will be made subject to the tax. The doubt existing regarding which articles are and which are not liable to stamp-duty renders it impossible to issue a list of them, but it is almost certain that, where directions are given regarding the taking of any quantity as a "dose" or as a "specific" for any ailment, or where the article is advertised or represented to be a cure for any trouble, a tax will be insisted on. Where there is any doubt as to whether the Stamp Act applies, and the article is not stamped, the best course will be for you to insist on receiving a guarantee from the manufacturer that it is not subject to the tax. I trust you will be saved any unpleasantness regarding the matter, but if anything should transpire with the authorities, you might kindly intimate to me at once.

The matter is at present under the consideration of the Federation of Grocers' Associations of the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,

JAS. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

What Grocers Think.

A discussion took place at a meeting of the Rhondda Grocers' Association held at Treherbert on Tuesday evening, January 5. It arose out of the following letter which had been received by the President (Mr. Gower) from Messrs. Fleisher & Co., of Cardiff, intimating the extension of time to March 31, and explaining the decision about body-names. Messrs. Fleisher added: "While toothache-essence is liable, or will be after March 31, tooth-essence will not be. From this we think you will be able to give such information at your meeting that will enable the members to put their house in order by the date specified." In the course of the discussion Mr. J. P. Williams (ex-President of the Association) expressed the opinion that the new ruling would be to the advantage of those who hold a patent-medicine licence, and that it would probably induce a greater number of tradespeople to take out a licence. At present there are a number of small shops at which pills, &c., are sold, and they would now be placed at a disadvantage. Mr. T. E. Davies (a Vice-President) explained that headache-powders, &c., consisting of entire drugs, for which a licence to sell is required. The question really resolved itself into one as to whether it paid the grocer to take out a patent-medicine

licence in order to be in a position to sell these things. If it did not pay them—and he questioned if it did—then the sooner they gave up dealing in these proprietary goods the better. He put it to the members whether these were not being sold at pretty well their cost price. Mr. J. W. Thomas (the Treasurer) urged that now that the chemist goes in for the selling of tea and other goods which the grocer sells, the latter should be a little more aggressive than at present. He pointed out as a fact that there is in South Wales one big retail grocery firm who depend more on what they make out of proprietary articles, medicines, pills, &c., than they do on the grocery department.

More Newspaper Comment.

The "Nottingham Daily Express" has the distinction of getting nearer the truth of the present crisis in stamped medicines than any other of the daily newspapers. The opening paragraph of its three-quarter-column article is a neat reflection of "Alpe," and is worth quoting:

Medicines were first taxed in 1783, when George III. was king. The politician who introduced the Bill to Parliament explained that the intention of the Government was to prevent quackery, which was practised by itinerant vendors of suspicious concoctions in the market places of small country towns. Apothecaries, those useful compromises between the doctor and the druggist, escaped, and have continued to escape, more or less, down to the present day. Like most efforts of Parliament, the Medicine-stamp Act of George III. was full of ambiguity, and gentlemen of the Middle Temple have down the ages published interpretations widely at variance. Yet, to the lay mind even, the terms of the statute appeared simple enough. The authorities represented by Somerset House did not, however, take a very deep interest in the "prevention of quackery," which has continued to flourish; while the legitimate chemist and druggist has also escaped the payment of duty on the majority of his preparations. But now there is to be a change in the old order. Hitherto the chemist has assumed—and rightly assumed, since there was no reason to do otherwise—that he might sell "remedies" unstamped provided he did not hold out any recommendations for curing ailments or diseases.

This puts the matter nicely, if not altogether accurately. We notice that the London correspondent of the "Glasgow Herald" explains that "the delay of three months which they have conceded is to enable grocers, who are extremely busy at this season, to sort their stocks and prepare for the strict interpretation of the law." A correspondent asks us, "Where does the Pharmaceutical Society or the chemist come in?"

Other London correspondents also write about the matter, each employing the same statement from "Truth" about "cough-mixture" and "lung-tonic." Few of them add anything original, but the "Birmingham Gazette" one finishes up by saying:

The plain truth is that the officials have got themselves into a fix, and so have postponed matters to the best day, when they hope to extricate themselves—All Fools' Day.

Wrong again, March 31 is the date. The "Civilian" has, we think, something to do with the Civil Service. It blunders also with the date, and prints the following

LETTER FROM AN I.R. OFFICER:

During the past two or three months I have been asked over and over again, by some of the chemists in my station, for information as to the new patent-medicine regulation which is to come into force on January 1. As far as I can make out, the Honourable Board have discovered a new and more stringent power in our wonderful old friend, 52 Geo. III., c. 150, and whilst they have been telling their intentions to representatives of certain sections of traders and warning them that such and such things will be allowed up to and including December 31, but not a day longer, they have not condescended to give any information to their officers. I presume they are expected to get their information by the light of nature or else on application to the traders. Failing such instructions from their Honours, perhaps one of your readers can give me, by aid of their Honours' latest deliverances (to the trade), a solution to the conundrum which seems to be troubling all my chemists at present—"When is a medicine not a medicine?"

In July, 1903, the Board issued a letter to its officers on the subject, a copy of which was printed in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, August 1, page 206. We understand that a general order will be issued to the officers, embodying concessions, &c., made since that date, in ample time for local officers to show their zeal on April 1.



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

Qualification the Basis of Exemption.

SIR,—The principle enunciated in my notes last week is of such paramount importance to every qualified chemist and druggist that I venture to reply to some remarks thereon in your editorial. I take no exception to the "fifth" condition as summarised at page 17, but I strongly object to the statement that it is to be regarded as "a stumbling-block." Putting aside, as unquestionably chargeable, every kind of medicine in regard to which any kind of proprietorship exists, or may be supposed as claimed or suggested, the class of medicines that are distinct from such chargeable medicines are distinct from them only in one particular—viz., that they are the converse of proprietary—i.e., known, admitted, and approved; by reason of the known "properties, qualities, virtues, or efficacies" of their ingredients, and by reason of being prepared and sold by specially qualified persons; whereas the others are secret concoctions or nostrums. Consequently the provisions relating to the exempted sale of medicines cannot speak of proprietorship, or of any condition entailing chargeability, in any other sense than that of emphasising the conditions that would determine chargeability. Those provisions say, in fact, that to be exempt a medicine must not be chargeable, Q.E.D. Even recommendation, "as nostrums," "by the owners, &c.," is there spoken of in that sense, for a medicine that is known, admitted, and approved, cannot in any way be the subject of proprietorship within the meaning of the Acts. Consequently, recommendation of such medicine is the only thing to which the exempting provisions can possibly relate; that is the particular thing permissible for specially qualified persons, but not permissible for other persons. That position is fairly stated in Alpe's book (page 105). Of course the exemption is, as he shows, "conferred to preparations composed of drugs the different denominations, properties, qualities, virtues, and efficacies of which are known and admitted in medicine," and to preparations "which are uttered and vended by qualified practitioners, chemists and druggists." But the following sentence, declaring the applicability of the exemption to be very small in practice, clearly exhibits the fallacy of the view that has been taken by the Inland Revenue authorities as to recommendation; because exempted medicines—at least as numerous, in kind, as those unconditionally chargeable—are themselves exempt or chargeable, not by reason of recommendation, but according as the seller of them is qualified or not. The cryptic statement, at page 106, that the exemption "does not take any medicine out of the general charge of duty that would otherwise fall within that charge" is, at least, beside the point; for it takes no cognisance of medicines that are not within the charge of duty at all, by reason of the statutory exemption. That all-pervading fallacy is plainly recognised in the judgment in *Farmer v. Glyn-Jones*, the concluding passage of which states that if the Solicitor-General's argument were correct, "the result would be that the exemption never could take effect at all, for no case could come within it except cases which the taxing enactment did not hit" (*C. & D.*, 1214, pages 702, 705). That is the gist of the whole matter; the charge of duty does not hit medicines sold by chemists and druggists unless those medicines are made the subject of proprietary claim or seem to be so. The beneficial virtues and efficacies of proprietary medicines, as remedies, are unknown quantities except by recommendation of those medicines "by the owners, &c." That carries with it chargeability by reason of the implied proprietorship.

Nor should there be any difficulty about "known, admitted, and approved medicines." What else can determine that

point but the several "properties, qualities, virtues, or efficacies" of the medicinal drugs, &c., from which medicines are prepared and compounded? Knowledge of those particulars and technical capacity to apply it constitute the qualification of the chemist and druggist. On that rests his exemption in regard to the sale of such medicines, as well as in regard to recommendation of medicines having different virtues and efficacies "as aforesaid," such sale and recommendation being within his proper province.

The origin of medicinal preparations may, in some few instances, afford reason for regarding them as chargeable with stamp-duty because they were recommended as nostrums by their originators, and were thus made proprietary—as, for instance, Singleton's eye-ointment, Godfrey's cordial, or Collis Browne's chlorodyne; but even in such exceptional instances similar preparations have been devised (even in the B.P.) which are not chargeable because, within the meaning of the Acts, there is no proprietorship in regard to them. Again, Gregory's powder and Hamilton's pills, &c., are preparations in regard to which the originators made no claim to such proprietorship; such descriptions should therefore be regarded as evidence of authorisation as "known, admitted, and approved" medicinal preparations rather than a ground for chargeability with stamp-duty, as in the case of Old Parr's pills or Holloway's ointment. In the case of preparations like cough-mixture, antibilious pills, or diarrhoea-mixture, which a chemist and druggist may be required to supply, there is no reasonable ground for calling upon him to prove that the preparations he supplies come within the meaning of the Medicine-stamp Acts as "known, admitted, and approved" medicines. Should not the knowledge and skill, of which his statutory qualification is special evidence, be sufficient for that purpose, as well as to place him beyond the possibility of being summoned as an offender by the Board of Inland Revenue? This is a question which evidently requires to be decided at the present time, for even in the ranks of chemists and druggists a very chaotic state of opinion evidently prevails, urgently requiring to be enlightened or at least harmonised with the statutory position chemists and druggists have had for 120 years under the Medicine-stamp Acts.

The successful result of Mr. Glyn-Jones' valiant effort in that direction has brushed aside the cobwebs hanging round recommendation; but if that result were limited to medicines specially formulated, success would be only partial, involving sacrifice of the main position—viz., that chemists and druggists are, within the meaning of the Acts, proper and legitimate vendors of drugs and recognised medicines. That would give to their statutory qualification a sound bottom that has long been sorely wanting.

For effectively securing that position amicable co-operation with the Inland Revenue authorities is indispensable. It cannot be secured by concessions, however well intentioned, for the Acts give no power of that kind; but it would be attainable by giving due effect to that proper discrimination between qualified and unqualified vendors of drugs and medicinal preparations, which has always been a conspicuous object of the Medicine-stamp Acts. The particular object of the Acts would thus be effected without damage to the revenue; for the hundreds of stores and branch-stores selling drugs and medicines throughout the Kingdom on behalf of companies of unqualified persons, offer ample field for administering the Medicine-stamp Acts as instruments of taxation and for collecting revenue (*See C. & D.* 1294, page 14.)

Regarded from that point of view the scope of the "special exemptions" of the Medicine-stamp Acts presents a hopeful and inviting prospect of amendment in conditions which chemists and druggists have long had reason to complain of. Its realisation would, however, require general active support and unity of purpose beyond that hitherto exhibited in connection with pharmacy-law amendment. Last May a writer in your pages, speaking of the great service rendered to chemists and druggists by the too belated construction of eighteenth-century legislation, put the question "What will they do with the advantage gained?" That question still remains without any response showing that chemists and druggists have adopted the advice to "wake up" to the necessity of active defence as a condition of conservance and of survival. Yours faithfully,

THE WRITER OF "NOW AND THEN."

A Novel Method for Testing Pepsin.

SIR,—With customary industry and alertness the North British Branch have been investigating Mr. Chattaway's "Digest of Criticisms on the B.P." and its methods. Comment was made on certain analytical reports regarding fluid-preparations of pepsin, which seemed to show that the articles on the market were almost inert. I have heard of equally extraordinary results being obtained by a worker in a laboratory, who devised the exceedingly simple process of mixing the pepsin, acid, and white of egg, and boiling all together. This process is easy and rapid, but rather rough on the pepsin.

Yours truly,
M.P.S.I. (6/17)

The Late Mr. Haward.

Dr. George B. Batten, Underhill Road, Lordship Lane, S.E., writing in regard to the late Mr. G. R. Haward, whose death was reported in our last issue, says: "Mr. Haward had been seriously ill since April last, and had been attended very constantly by myself and my partner, and had also been seen by at least five other medical men, some of whom came to see him because they knew and appreciated him in his work as a chemist and were interested in his very puzzling and complicated case. He went a few weeks before his death into St. George's Hospital at his own desire, after having heard the opinion of Dr. Symes Thompson and myself in consultation. He was under the care of Dr. Rolleston at that hospital. He seemed to be doing better there, and his dropsy getting less under the use of caffeine citra'e, which made his wife, who was devoted to him and had nursed him most bravely through his long and trying illness, and his relations hopeful. Then his sudden death from heart-failure dashed all their hopes to the ground. His sudden death and the fact that twelve nitroglycerin tablets were found in his handkerchief apparently necessitated an inquest. Mrs. Haward had given him these at his own desire, as he had, when under my care and according to my advice, been occasionally taking them for acute attacks of breathlessness. Although I cannot suggest that the giving of drugs to a patient in a hospital by relatives is anything but wrong, yet the facts show that they had nothing to do with his death, for he had not taken any of them, as twelve were given him and twelve were found. The jury also gave as a verdict that death was from natural causes; and Dr. Freyberger stated that he did not believe the nitroglycerin tablets could have anything to do with it, and he died from valvular heart-disease complicated with Bright's disease—chronic broncho-pneumonia of left lung and interstitial pneumonia and collapse of right lung."

Abies and Picea.

SIR,—I trust you will allow me to trespass once more on your valuable space on the above subject. Mr. Holmes is entirely mistaken when he thinks I have no practical experience with the above genera. I have been intimately acquainted with them both for many years past, and thoroughly know their "external physical," as well as their "microscopical" characteristics, so it is quite unnecessary to follow Mr. Holmes's well-intentioned advice to visit some nurseryman or to accept his kind offer of twigs from his own private garden, as I am as conversant with both genera as probably Mr. Holmes is himself. He seems to quite miss the object of my correspondence—viz., to thresh out the various alterations from time to time made in the nomenclature of these plants and to clear the air of the confusion which undoubtedly has existed; and because I put the question direct to try to clinch the matter—to avoid evasiveness—viz., "Is the Norwegian spruce an *Abies* or a *Picea*?" and as a sequence, "What is the general consensus of opinion as to what is a *Picea* and what an *Abies*?" Mr. Holmes hurriedly comes to the conclusion that I do not know the plants themselves, which, to put it mildly, is somewhat high-handed and precipitate. Now, one difficulty in the matter is that the generic names do not help us much. The word "*Abies*" is derived from *abeo* to go from, on account of the great height of the trees; which would be applicable to both the spruce and the silver fir. "*Picea*" is derived from the Greek *Πεύκη* the pitch-tree, which would also be applicable to both. The point under discussion is

that the names applied to these plants, as Mr. Holmes knows well, have been moved backwards and forwards at various times by different botanists. The Norway spruce was supposed to be the *Picea* of Pliny, but was evidently often confused by the Latin writers with their *Abies*, the silver fir. All along these names were loosely used for both genera up to the time of Linnaeus, when that great botanist distinctly classified the Norway spruce as *Pinus Abies* and the silver fir as *Pinus Picea*. After this great authority, the various editions of the B.P. up to 1898 acknowledged this to be the correct classification. I may add that these names were generally given as above to these plants till Sir Joseph Hooker in 1833 preferred to revert to the nomenclature of the early Romans, and thus again reversed them as we have them now in our present Pharmacopœia. How long this will continue to be regarded as correct, time alone will tell. Of course we all know the natural characteristics of the plants themselves are constant—i.e., they would be the same in Pliny's time as to-day. No one, moreover, who knows anything of these firs has any doubt as to their natural differences irrespective of names—but it is the nomenclature or classification of these plants by man that has been so loose and given rise to such varying opinions and consequent confusion. Mr. Holmes suggests these different names given by different botanists at different times are only synonyms—i.e., *Picea* and *Abies* were applied both to the same plant. Here he himself admits and accentuates the confusion to which I referred in my first letter, and which in his first reply he affected to ignore. I may add that I have never for one moment, as he imagines, thought the different names applied to the Norwegian fir were meant for any but that one plant. As Mr. Holmes is partly responsible for the change of names in the present B.P. (having assisted in its compilation) he very naturally sticks to his guns and defends them; but he can never be so unreasonable as not to admit there has been a great deal of confusion in this subject which is capable of much elucidation. I, however, thank Mr. Holmes for his replies, and only regret that others of your expert correspondents did not feel sufficiently interested to enter into the subject as well.

December 30.

J. G. SANGSTER.

Dispensing Notes.

Quinine and Iodide Mixture.

SIR,—In your issue of December 19 you printed a prescription as presented by Mr. Worsley to the Western Chemists' Association. We do not see any difficulty in dispensing it, as the mixture which we send will show you. This was made up in the presence of Mr. Last on December 20, and has remained in the same condition since.

Yours respectfully,

Liverpool, January 4.

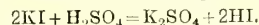
ALLAN & CO.

[We have followed this correspondence with growing interest, and feel reluctant to say anything which may stop it, but no one has yet gone to the fundamentals of the matter. The prescription which Mr. Worsley brought before the Western Chemists' Association was—

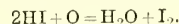
Potass. iodid...	...	...	5j.
Quinine sul'phat.	...	...	gr. viij.
Acid. sulph. dil.	...	...	℥xxiv.
Aquam ad	...	...	5xij.

Ft. mist.

However carefully dispensed, Mr. Worsley found liberation of iodine takes place when the mixture had stood for a short time, and a precipitate (which he took for a gummy iodide of quinine) was slowly formed. This is what might be expected when the fact is considered that potassium iodide and sulphuric acid react thus:



This takes place even in dilute solutions, especially when exposed to sunlight, and in presence of oxygen the hydriodic acid changes thus:

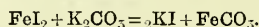


The iodide thus liberated reacts with quinine to form an iodo-quinine. Mr. George Roe has favoured us with a 6-oz. mixture of similar composition, which he made in May, 1900. The prescription was as follows (see C. & D., May 5, 1900, page 777):

Quinine sul'phatis	...	...	gr. xxiv.
Acid. sulphuric dil.	...	...	gr. xxxvj.
Potassii iodidi	...	...	5j.
Aq. chlorofo. mi	...	...	3vj.

M,

When this mixture was made by Mr. Roe it was as free from precipitate and as clear as the mixture which Messrs. Allan & Co. send to us, but now it contains about half a teaspoonful of beautiful brown needle-shaped crystals; similar crystals adhere to the sides of the bottle, and the liquid is tinted brown and has the odour of iodine. From the appearance of the crystals (different from herapatite) we assume that they are the iodo-quinine which crystallises in brown needles, and is a combination of four molecules of quinine with five atoms of iodine. The 1900 mixture brought us from the late T. B. Groves, of Weymouth, an interesting note, in which he said that he had been puzzled by the mixture some years before, but "at last found that the reaction was due to the presence of a trace of iodate in the iodide of potassium. The addition of an acid to the salt developed iodine; this attached itself to the quinine, forming herapatite, which caused the brown coloration, and could with care be obtained in the form of crystals, recognisable as artificial tourmaline under the microscope." Herapatite is an iodo-sulphate of quinine. For the reasons above stated we do not think the crystals are herapatite, nor do we think the presence of iodate is necessary to account for the liberation of iodine. That contamination is rarely present in potassium iodide nowadays, and it does not arise in the process of manufacture, which consists in the production of ferrous iodide by interaction of iodine and iron, and that salt is then treated with potassium carbonate—



Twenty years ago or more a foreign chemist made a long series of experiments on the behaviour of acidified potassium-iodide solutions when exposed to light, and he conclusively demonstrated that all the mineral acids, even when very dilute, ultimately liberate iodine. The reactions are those given earlier in this note. Since then numerous studies of iodine and iodides have put it beyond dispute that the molecules KI and H_2SO_4 cannot exist together in presence of water, at least indefinitely, as the affinity between K and SO_4 is greater than that between K and I. We have entered somewhat fully into this matter because it is one of educative value, and dispensers as well as prescribers should know that chemical changes must occur sooner or later in mixtures of the kind. A point still remains—viz., Why do some dispensers get the brown precipitate more quickly than others? This is most likely due to the materials differing. Mr. T. B. Groves's observation points to one possible source of trouble; he was a most careful observer. Again, water more highly aerated with oxygen would produce the change more quickly.—
EDITOR.]

Legal Queries.

Consult "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1904 before formulating queries.

4/59. *Liability*.—We cannot determine the exact position of A in the hire-purchase matter without the complete terms of the contract. In any case A's best plan is to write to the people informing them of the circumstances, and putting to them the suggestion as to return.

197/68 *Sub*.—The co-partnership into which you propose to enter is illegal in respect to your partner.

6/68. *H. S. F. B.*—The modification of a published formula in the manner which you suggest, as by using a modified tr. chloroform. et morphin. co., is, in our opinion, perfectly permissible so far as Exemption 3 is concerned. So long as a preparation remains substantially the same as provided by a published formula, the law is fulfilled.

192/65. *Receipts*.—Embossed stamps on unused proxy-forms and other spoiled stamps are allowed for when returned to the Stamp Department, Somerset House, W.C.

Information Wanted.

8/58. Who are the makers of electro-silicon?

5/1. Ether soap "in tablets": where obtainable or how made?

253/21. Where can compressed or solidified kerosene be obtained?

256/46. Who makes or supplies Swatow's lamp for mosquitoes?

5/19. Bordeaux-broth precipitate in large quantities: where obtainable?

Coming Events.

Notices for insertion under this heading should be received by the Editor on Wednesday of each week.

Friday, January 8.

Blackpool and Fylde Chemists' Association, Palatine Hotel, Blackpool, at 9 P.M. Mr. Lofthouse on "Window-displays."

Monday, January 11.

Dewsbury Chemists' Association, Church House, Church Street, at 8.30 P.M. The business includes discussion on the Spirits Acts and Co-operative buying.

Tuesday, January 12.

Huddersfield Chemists' Association, Queen Hotel, at 8.45 P.M. Monthly meeting.

Wakefield Chemists' Association, Victoria Temperance Hotel, at 8.15 P.M. Annual general meeting.

Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, 66 Russell Square, at 8 P.M. Mr. B. H. Bentley will read a paper entitled "Photographic Studies in the Biology of Flowers."

Oxford Chemists' Association, Golden Cross Hotel, at 9 P.M. Monthly meeting.

Bradford Chemists' Association, Royal Hotel, Darley Street, at 8 P.M. Conversations. Morning dress.

Wednesday, January 13.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association, 36 York Place, at 9.15 P.M. Apprentices' meeting.

Newcastle-on-Tyne Chemists' Association, Hôtel Métropole, Clayton Street, at 8.30 P.M. Discussion on "Territorial Representation." To be opened by Mr. G. F. Merson.

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, Municipal Art Gallery, Mosley Street, at 7 P.M. Soirée, with exhibition of lantern-slides, microscopic objects, and radium. Tickets (1s. 6d. single, 2s. 6d. double) may be had of local wholesale houses, or from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. C. Kidd, 551 Cheetham Hill Road.

Thursday, January 14.

London Chemists' Association (North London Branch). Messrs. Idris's works, Camden Town, N.W., at 3.30 P.M. Mr. C. S. Pickering on "The Outdoor System." Mr. W. H. C. Baskin will explain the use of various photographic apparatus.

North Staffordshire Chemists' Association. Monthly meeting.

West Ham Chemists' Association, Earlam Hall, Earlam Grove, Forest Gate, E. Social evening, lantern-slides, 7 to 8. Smoking-concert, 8 to 11.

Brighton Association of Pharmacy, 58 King's Road, at 9 P.M. General business meeting.

Friday, January 15.

Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, W., at 9 P.M. Lord Rayleigh on "Shadows."

London College of Pharmacy, Venetian Chamber, Holborn Restaurant. Annual dinner and prize-distribution.

THE annual dinner of the Blackpool and Fylde Chemists' Association is to be held at the Palatine Hotel, Blackpool, on January 20. Tickets (5s. each) may be had from Mr. Sankey, 5 Bank Hey Street, Blackpool.

THE annual ball of the Midland Pharmaceutical Association has been arranged for January 21 at the Vestry Hall, Islington Row, Birmingham. Tickets (5s. each) may be had from Mr. J. A. Radford, Hon. Secretary, 14 Union Street, Birmingham.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on January 20, at 3 P.M. Educational meeting. Professor R. B. Wild will read a paper on "University Education for Pharmacists," and Mr. H. Wippell Gadd on "Concurrent Curricula."

THE CHEMISTS' BALL is to be held at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, London, W.C., on Wednesday, January 20. Applications for tickets (lady's 12s. 6d., gentleman's 17s. 6d.) should be made to the Stewards or to Mr. K. A. Robinson, jun., Hon. Secretary, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.

THE annual dinner of the Nottingham Chemists' Association will be held on January 21 at the Victoria Station Hotel, at 7.30 P.M. Tickets (4s. each) can be obtained (not later than January 18) from the Hon. Secretaries Mr. A. Eberlin, 2 Chapel Bar, and Mr. W. Gill, 207 Radford Road, Nottingham.

A DINNER in connection with the London Chemists' Association will be held at the Hotel Cecil on January 26, at 7.30 P.M. The President (Alderman T. H. W. Idris) will preside, and receive the company at from 7 to 7.30 P.M. Tickets (7s. 6d. each) can be obtained from Mr. R. B. Betty, Hon. Secretary, 1 Park Street, Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, N.W.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: January 7.

AT the first drug-auctions of the year, which consisted of old and new goods, there was little demand, and where business was done prices mostly tended downwards. Cape aloes was in better supply and tended easier. Sumatra benzoin was firmly held, but quiet. Cardamoms showed no appreciable alteration; but seeds were easier. Colocynth was in moderate supply, and sold cheaply. Dragon's blood was quiet; and elemi, under the influence of larger offerings, met a decline. The Jamaica honey offered was of no interest, quality being indifferent. Natural Rio ipecacuanha was easier, but other descriptions showed no change. Menthol declined 1s. 6d. under forced sales. Rhubarb was quite neglected; Honduras sarsaparilla sold at easier rates, and grey Jamaica was about steady. Tinnevely senna brought unaltered rates, and Jamaica wax was easier. Privately, business has been quiet, as is usual during the first week of the year. Shellac and cloves show considerable activity, the latter article having been excited, with violent fluctuations. Quinine has been quite neglected. Copper sulphate, saltpetre, soda tart., and pulv. seidlitz are all higher. In essential oils a fair amount of business has been done in oil of camphor, at firmer prices; there is also a better feeling in oil of star aniseed. Distillers of clove oil have advanced their prices again on account of the rise in cloves. The market for oil of peppermint is steady but quiet, with continued strong advices from the United States. The following are the principal alterations of the week:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Cloves	Oil, aniseed, star	Aloes (Cape)	Cardamom-seed
Copper sulphate	Oil, camphor	Oil, lime (W.I.)	Cocoa butter
Lycopodium		Sarsaparilla (Honduras)	Elemi
Oil, clove			Ipecac. (Matto Grosso)
Pepper			Mace (W.I.)
Pulv. seidlitz			Menthol
Saltpetre (Germ.)			Musk-seed
Shellac			Nutmegs (W.I.)
Soda tart.			Wax, bees' (Jamaica)

Cablegrams.

HAMBURG, January 7:—For refined camphor 475m. per hundred kilos, has been paid. Star aniseed oil is firmer at 10½m. per kilo., and American HGH oil of peppermint is quoted 14½m. per lb.

NEW YORK, January 7:—Business here is fair. Opium continues dull of sale at \$2.95 per lb. in single cases. Peppermint oil is firmer at \$2.65 per lb. for tins. Podophyllum-root is quiet, holders being willing to accept 9½c. per lb. Senega is firm at 74c., and Mexican sarsaparilla remains easy at 9c. per lb. Menthol is also easy at \$5.25 per lb.

ACID, TANNIC.—B.P. quality is firm at 1s. 8d. per lb. in cases of 1 cwt.

ACID, TARTARIC.—Firm at 1s. 1½d. for English, and 1s. 0¾d. to 1s. 1d. for foreign.

ARROWROOT.—Steady in auction, good manufacturing St. Vincent selling in quantity at 1¼d. per lb. for barrels; tins sold at 2¾d., and Bermuda in kegs was bought in at 1s. 4d.

ASAFETIDA.—The s.s. *Tigris* from Bunder Abbas has brought 93 cases.

BROMIDES.—We notice the arrival of 235½ worth of bromide of potassium from the United States, but we understand it is for delivery against contract.

CAMPHOR.—There is no further change, but refiners are not anxious to sell at present prices, and a further advance is talked of. In auction 14 cases of Japanese refined, in tablets, were bought in at 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. per lb.

CINCHONA.—The N. V. Nederlandsche Veem at Amsterdam reports the shipments from Java to Europe during December as follows:—

Year	Amsterdam Lbs.	Year	Amsterdam Lbs.
1903	1,200,000	1897	731,000
1902	1,518,000	1896	890,000
1901	1,300,000	1895	634,000
1900	1,100,000	1894	531,000
1899	626,000	1893	391,000
1898	1,018,000		

January-December.

Year	Amsterdam Lbs.	Year	Amsterdam Lbs.
1903	13,725,000	1897	8,437,000
1902	13,346,000	1896	10,079,000
1901	12,799,000	1895	8,821,700
1900	10,780,000	1894	8,917,700
1899	11,409,800	1893	7,342,000
1898	11,150,000		

At auction 13 serons of good, sound Huanuco sold at 1s. 1d. per lb., subject to buyer's approval of sample; and 30 serons of Crown bark from another catalogue brought 10¾d. to 11¼d. Sixteen bales damaged druggists' quills, part silvery, sold at 5d. per lb., and 4 bales good flat damaged brought 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per lb.

COCOA-BUTTER.—At the auction at Amsterdam on January 5, 80 tons of Van Houten's brand were sold at 61½c. to 63c. (average price 62c., against 63.80c. paid at the previous auction), and 11 tons De Jong sold at 59½c. to 59¾c. In London at auction 90 tons *Cadbury's A* sold at 11¼d. to 11½d., being ½d. lower.

COPPER SULPHATE is dearer, Anchor brand having been advanced to 22½. 10s. to 23½. per ton, and ordinary brands to 19½. 10s.; Liverpool makes are also higher.

CREAM OF TARTAR is firm at from 86s. to 87s. per cwt. for 98-per-cent. powder and 83s. to 84s. for 95-per-cent.

GLYCERIN.—The demand here is quiet, prices being unaltered. In France there has recently been a large business for delivery during this year.

GUARANA is offered at 3s. 6d. per lb. in original cases of 160 lbs.

KOLA.—At the spice auctions 5 bags fair dry West Indian sold at 5d. per lb. In the drug-auctions 5 bags good bold West Indian halves sold at 6d. per lb., and a case of fair Ceylon brought 6d. Small dull African kola was also limited at 6d., and a bid of 4d. was refused.

LINSEED.—Crushed is now quoted 15s. 6d. per cwt. net for either light or golden.

LYCOPodium remains very firm, holders quoting 2s. 7d. per lb. nett.

OIL, CASTOR.—Finest medicinal Italian in cases is quoted by agents at 30s. 3d. per cwt. nett c.i.f. terms London.

OIL, COD LIVER.—Our Bergen correspondent writes on January 2 that no reports from the cod-fishing centres have been received this week. The market at present is quite inanimate, buyers holding aloof. The total exports of cod-liver oil from Bergen during 1903 amounted to 2,331 barrels, against 9,245 barrels at the same period of 1902. In auction

51 casks of pure non-freezing Newfoundland oil, with printed analysis, were bought in at 400s. per barrel, a sporting bid of 300s. being refused. Several parcels of Norwegian oil, partly of doubtful quality, were bought in.

We understand on good authority that legal proceedings have been taken in New York by a well-known Norwegian cod-liver oil refiner in reference to the circular issued by a New York cod-liver oil agent some weeks ago, which contained allegations of a damaging character.

OIL, OLIVE.—Reports from Messina regarding the new crop are favourable, quality being excellent; arrivals of new oil are still scarce. Yellow Messina is quoted 30*l.* 5s., greenish Messina 29*l.* 10s., Gallipoli 31*l.*, choice ditto 33*l.*, and burning Russia 35*l.* per tun, f.o.b.

OILS, ESSENTIAL.—Sweet *Oil of Almond* is unaltered at 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb., and 1*s.* 5*d.* for pale. *Oil of Peach-kernel* is quoted 7½*d.* for sweet, and 9½*d.* per lb. for pale, both prices being net. The exports of *Oil of Cinnamon* from Ceylon from January 1 to December 14, 1903, have been 80,982 lbs., against 101,973 lbs. and 73,493 lbs. during the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901 respectively. The bulk of this is no doubt leaf oil, more or less adulterated. Owing to the advance in clove, the market for the oil is dearer again, and English distillers have raised their prices to 5s. per lb., but possibly a shade less would buy in some quarters. Artificial *Oil of Wintergreen* is quoted 1*s.* 7*d.* per lb. net in tins. B.P. *Oil of Juniper* from berries is obtainable at 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb. net. The market for Ceylon *Oil of Citronella* remains firm, 1*s.* 2*d.* having been paid for small lots in cases. There has been some movement in *Oil of Star-aniseed* this week at rather firmer prices, 4*s.* 7½*d.* to 4*s.* 8*d.* having been paid on the spot, and 4*s.* 9*d.* was quoted on Wednesday; for shipment 4*s.* 5*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*, c.i.f., is now wanted. Essential *Oil of Camphor* has been in demand, some fifty cases having changed hands at 38*s.* to 39*s.* per cwt., but practically nothing is now obtainable under 40*s.* and upwards for white light oil. The market for American HGH is steady but quiet, with sellers at 14*s.* 6*d.*, and it is reported that some business has been done from second hands at this figure on practically landed terms. The agents for *Todd's* brand report they have withdrawn from the market for the present. Private advices from the United States continue strong in tone, owing to some sellers having been caught short and others defaulting.

OPIMUM.—Quiet conditions prevail in London, with a fair inquiry for Persian at up to 10*s.* 9*d.* and 11*s.* per lb., being firm. Turkey is unaltered. The following quotations have been received by a London agent, dated Smyrna December 19: Bogaditz Balukessar superior soft slightly 9*s.* 10*d.*, Yerli soft slightly superior 9*s.* 3*d.*, manufacturing Yerli 7*s.* 9*d.*, superior selected Karahissar 8*s.* 9*d.*, slightly manufacturing Karahissar 7*s.* 6*d.*, unsightly ditto 7*s.* 3*d.*, and common current 7*s.* per lb., c.i.f. terms.

SMYRNA, December 28.—A quiet week with sales amounting to 13 cases of Yerli and Karahissar at from 8*s.* 4*d.* to 8*s.* 9*d.* per lb., f.o.b., as to quality. Holders continue to maintain a firm attitude, and until the dangers of the winter are over it is not probable that they will make any concessions.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 1.—Although little or no business is passing, the firmer tone previously reported is still maintained. The week's sales amount to 8 cases soft-shipping, at 10*s.* 11*d.*, and 1 case druggists', at 7*s.* 7*d.* per lb., f.o.b.

ORRIS.—Good Florentine sorts remain low in price, being obtainable at 19*s.* per cwt. net, c. and f., London.

PARALDEHYDE is offered at from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb. net for B.P., according to packing.

QUININE.—In the entire absence of business this week prices in second-hands are nominal. There are buyers on the spot at 1*s.* 0½*d.*, and 20,000 oz. March were sold at 1*s.* 0¾*d.*

SAFFRON.—Advices to hand from Valencia this week show that prices continue to be maintained at above the London parity; on the spot, 36*s.* 6*d.* to 37*s.* per lb. is quoted for finest B.P. quality.

SALTPETRE.—German is dearer, at 21*s.* 3*d.* per cwt. for kegs and 20*s.* 10½*d.* for barrels.

SHELLAC.—The spot market has been quiet, with small sales of TN orange at 22*s.* to 22½*s.* per cwt. For delivery there has been an active business at rising prices, the market on Wednesday advancing 3*s.* per cwt., and on that day

January delivery sold at from 221*s.* to 224*s.*, March at 206*s.* to 208*s.*, and May 200*s.* to 204*s.*

SODA TARTARATE has been advanced 3*s.* per cwt., and pulv. seidlitz by 2*s.* per cwt. *Howards'* price for soda tart. B.P., crystals or powder, is 80*s.*, and for pulv. seidlitz 67*s.*

SPICES.—At auction, ordinary to medium dullish Jamaica *Ginger* (35) sold at 38*s.* to 40*s.*, fair bright washed at 49*s.* Of Cochin 19 sold at 39*s.* to 40*s.* for wormy native cut. *Alleppey Pepper* was bought in at 6½*d.* for greyish, and fair Lampong at 6½*d.* Privately there are sellers of Singapore at 6½*d.*, and to arrive the business comprises 50 tons January-March and March-May at 6½*d.* *White Pepper* is firm, good fair Singapore being bought in at 10½*d.*, and 61 bags fair limed Penang sold at 9½*d.* Privately the market is also firm. West Indian *Nutmegs* were ½*d.* to 1*d.* lower, and West Indian *Mace* was about 2*d.* per lb. cheaper. *Zanzibar Cloves* (150) were bought in at 8½*d.* for fair, and 8½*d.* for ordinary dark. Privately there has been a large speculative business, estimated at some 10,000 bales. Up to Wednesday the following prices had been paid: January-March 8½*d.* to 8½*d.*, March-May 8½*d.* to 8½*d.*, and June-August 8½*d.* to 8½*d.* per lb.

SULPHUR.—The Messina market remains firm, and the arrivals of brimstone at the warehouses on behalf of "outsiders" are becoming less and less. At the end of November there was a stock of 173,000 tons at Girgenti, of which only 20,000 tons belonged to "outsiders." The greater part of this stock is seconds, and the current thirds, which were formerly such a drag on the market, are disappearing. Refined roll sulphur is quoted 9½*s.* 9*d.* in bags, 100*s.* in 3-cwt. casks and in cases of 50 kilos.; sublimed flowers, pure, 108*s.* 6*d.* per ton of 20 cwt., f.o.b.

TURPENTINE.—*Venice* is firm, at 67*s.* per cwt., c.i.f., and may probably go higher.

London Drug-auctions.

The following table shows quantity of goods offered and sold:

Offered		Sold		Offered		Sold	
Aloes—				Galangal	40	...	0
Cape	77	...	23	Galls	6	...	0
Curaçao (boxes)	67	...	3	Gamboge	23	...	0
Socotrine	72	...	0	Gentian	11	...	0
Zanzibar	64	...	2	Gum acacia	38	...	27
Ambergris	7	...	2	Honey—			
Anatto-seed	14	...	2	Californian	30	...	0
Areca	47	...	12	Greek	1	...	0
Argol (Cape)	15	...	11	Jamaica	64	...	0
Asphaltum	48	...	0	Horehound	9	...	0
Balsam—				Ignatius-beans	10	...	0
Copaiba	11	...	7	Insect-flowers	5	...	0
Tolu	1	...	0	Ipecacuanha—			
Peru	5	...	0	Cartagena	5	...	1
Benzoin—				Rio (Matto Grosso)	52	...	16
Palembang	11	...	1	„ (Minas)	34	...	6
Saigon	3	...	0	Jalap	31	...	0
Sumatra	215	...	24	Juniper-berries ..	7	...	7
Buchu	48	...	15	Kino	12	...	0
Calumba	76	...	0	Kola	29	...	6
Camphor (ref. Jap.)	34	...	0	Kouso	4	...	0
Canella alba	13	...	0	Lime-juice	41	...	10
Cardamoms	310	...	168	Liquorice-root ..	7	...	0
Cascara sagrada ..	30	...	0	Manaca-root	14	...	0
Cascarilla	42	...	0	Mastic	5	...	0
Casein	19	...	0	Menthol	20	...	20
Cassia fistula	16	...	8	Musk—			
Castor-oil seed	7	...	0	grain	1	...	0
Castorium	3	...	0	p.d.	1	...	0
Chiretta	5	...	0	seed	8	...	8
Cinchona	67	...	59	Myrrh	20	...	4
Civet	3	...	0	Oil—			
Coca-leaves (Ceylon) ..	12	...	12	cinnamon	1	...	0
Cocculus indicus ..	50	...	0	citronella	1	...	0
Cochineal	1	...	0	cod-liver (Nor.) ..	10	...	0
Colocynth	54	...	17	(Newf.)	51	...	0
Croton-seed	59	...	0	cuscuta	2	...	0
Cubeb	15	...	0	eucalyptus	82	...	40
Cumin-seed	6	...	0	geranium (Bour.) ..	1	...	1
Cuttle-fish bone ..	50	...	7	lemongrass	16	...	0
Dill-seed	9	...	0	lime (W.I.)	12	...	9
Dragons-blood	16	...	1	mowra	10	...	0
Elemi	76	...	28	neroli	2	...	0
Ergot	17	...	0	peppermint	40	...	0

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
Oil, rose (E.I.)	14	1	Senna, Tinnevely	201	194
ylang-ylang	1	0	Soy	22	2
Olibanum	2	0	Squill	30	12
Orange-peel	8	2	Sticklac	36	0
Papaw-juice	7	0	Strophanthus	10	0
Poppy-heads	9	0	Tamarinds	98	0
Quince seed	3	0	Tonka-beans	13	3
Rhatany	5	0	Turmeric	93	19
Rhubarb	81	1	Turtle (dried)	5	4
"Roots E.I."	5	0	Wax (bees')—		
Saffron	8	0	Australian	9	0
Sandalwood	20	0	Borneo	3	0
Sandarac	8	8	Chiliau	4	0
Sarsaparilla—			Chinese	10	0
grey Jamaica	47	16	East Indian	139	0
Guatemala	7	7	Jamaica	44	12
Honduras	12	12	Madagascar	64	0
Lima Jamaica	37	0	Morocco	139	0
native Jam.	29	3	Nyassaland	2	2
Scammonium	22	0	Rangoon	8	8
Scammony-root	462	0	Spanish		
Seedlac	22	0	(bleached)	10	0
Senega	13	5	Zanzibar	103	0
Senega—			Wax, vegetable		
Alex.	80	6	(Jap.)	45	0

ALOES.—Caps was in better supply and sold at fairly good but rather easier prices compared with the previous auctions. Fair to good bright hard brought from 43s. 6d. to 47s.; good seconds, slightly drossy, from 44s. to 45s.; and for common dull and drossy 40s. was paid. Of Zanzibar aloes in skins 23 packages were shown, 2 of which sold at 50s. for good dark hepatic in dry condition. Of Curaçoa aloes 67 packages were shown, but the quality was very common. Dark dull brown sold at 20s., and common mixed black and livery at 16s. per cwt.

ARECA.—Twelve bags of Ceylon sold at 12s. 6d. for slightly wormy, and for better quality 17s. 6d. was wanted.

ARGOL.—Dusty grey Caps sold at 55s.

ANNATTO SEED.—Good Madras was held at 3½d., and mixed sweepings sold at 2d.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Fair thin pale to reddish balsam from Para sold at 1s. 4d. per lb.

BALSAM, PERU.—For fair thickish balsam a bid of 4s. 6d. per lb. is to be submitted for one lot.

BENZON.—Holders of Sumatra gum were firm, but very few sales were made, and prices showed no material change. Good fair Sumatra seconds, well packed with small to medium white almonds, was limited at 8½; fair ditto greyish, partly false packed, sold at 6d. 2s. 6d.; middling seconds with old fracture brought from 5d. 2s. 6d. to 5d. 5s. per cwt.; and 3 cases of common sold at 92s. 6d. Saigon was again taken out at nominal prices; and for 10 cases low Palembang 20s. was wanted, 15s. being refused, and an odd case of fair sold at 41s.

BUCHU.—About steady, with an absence of good green round leaf. Medium to fair, but yellowish and stalky, sold at from 8d. to 9d., and common at 6d., per lb.

CARDAMOM.—Quiet at irregular rates, seed being rather cheaper. Ceylon-Mysore, extra bold pale, sold at from 2s. 1d. to 2s. 4d.; good bold pale, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 7d.; bold split pale, 1s. 7d.; bold medium pale, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d.; small pale, 9d. to 10½d.; small split, 7½d. to 8½d.; peas, 7d. to 8½d.; brown and split, 6d. to 7½d. Eleven cases of seed sold at from 11d. to 11½d., and very pale at 10d. Other lots were held at 1s., and some 16 cases of good sold at this price.

CASSIA FISTULA.—Of a parcel of 16 baskets of fair but lean East Indian pod, slightly wormy, lying at a private warehouse, 8 had been sold privately, and a bid of 25s. was refused for the remainder, 30s. being wanted.

COCA-LEAVES.—Steady. Fair to good greenish Ceylon (6) sold at from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. per lb., and fair dark greenish (6) brought 1s.

COLOCYNTH.—Good pale Persian pulped sold at 2s. 4d. per lb., subject, for 3 bales. Turkey pulped was held at from 2s. 3d. to 3s., according to colour, and 5 cases Spanish apple had been disposed of privately. Eight cases of small to bold palish broken apple sold at 8d. for sound, and 7d. for sea-damaged.

CUTTLEFISH-BONE.—Fair white bone from Bombay (7 cases) sold at from 3d. to 4d. per lb.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—Neglected. A case of oil-damaged, sold at 4d. 12s. 6d., and several cases fair lump were taken out at 6d. 10s.

ELEMENT.—A large supply was offered, which partly sold at 42s. per cwt. for fair pale Manila, being much lower.

ERGOT.—Spanish, on the spot, is quoted 1s. 8d., net, and 1s. 7d. to arrive; while Russian is 1s. 4½d., c.i.f. terms.

GAMBOGE.—The limits in auction have been slightly reduced, and 15d. per cwt. will buy good Siam pipe, partly blocky and damp.

HONEY.—The quality of the Jamaica honey offered was very poor, and it was of no interest to buyers.

IPECACUANHA.—Natural Rio (Matto Grosso) was about 6d. per lb. easier, a fair quantity selling at from 5s. to 5s. 1d. per lb. for ordinary lean, of which the bulk of the offerings consisted. For fair Rio 5s. 2d. was wanted. A few bales of Minas were also sold at 5s. to 5s. 2d. per lb., being about steady. Cartagena was very scarce, a bale of fair grey selling at 4s. 8d. per lb.

KINO.—No business was done in auction, but privately sales of good Cochin grain have been made at 5½d. per lb.

KOUSOU.—Four bales were put up without reserve, and 1d. per lb. was the highest bid.

LIME JUICE.—Unworked West Indian sold at from 9d. to 10½d. per gal. for 10 casks.

MENTHOL.—Nineteen cases of Kobayashi crystals were put up without reserve, and sold at from 17s. to 17s. 6d. per lb., being about 1s. 6d. lower than the price asked privately.

MUSK SEED.—Five packages of fair from St. Lucia sold at 8½d. per lb., subject, and two other cases from another catalogue sold at 8d. to 8½d.

MYRRH.—Still scarce. Fair palish Aden sorts (4) apparently sold at 90s. per cwt., and 6d. 15s. was wanted for picked.

OILS, ESSENTIAL.—In auction genuine *Oil of Cinnamon* (Kaderana brand) was held at 1s. per oz. A case of what was described as otto of limes from Dominica sold at 2s. 7d. per lb., and West Indian distilled *Oil of Limes* sold at 1s. 3½d. to 1s. 4d., and hand-pressed but off colour at 2s. 6d., subject. A drum of pure *Oil of Citronella* (Perry's analysis) was held at 1s. 6d. per lb. *Oil of Eucalyptus* sold cheaply, 40 cases realising 1s. 1d. per lb. for oil containing 63 per cent. to 70 per cent. eucalyptol, according to Perry's analysis. Japanese dementholised *Oil of Peppermint* was taken out at 6s. 6d., but privately there are sellers at 6s. per lb.

ORANGE-PEEL.—Two cases of dull dark strip sold without reserve at 3½d. per lb.

RHUBARB.—Quite neglected in auction. A case of round and flat Canton pickings sold at 10d. per lb., subject, and for good flat High-dried 1s. per lb. was asked.

SANDARAC.—Eight casks fair Morocco brought 67s. 6d.

SARSAPARILLA.—Quiet. Fair sound grey Jamaica was held for 1s. 1d., a bid of 1s. being refused; but in another instance this price was accepted for fair. Inferior coarse sold at 9½d., and sea-damaged at 9d. Red native (3 bales) brought 10d., subject. Twelve serons Honduras sold at 1s. per lb., being rather easier. Seven bales of Guatemala realised 7½d. for sound, and 6d. for water-damaged.

SCAMMONY-ROOT.—A large supply was offered, for which 22s. 6d. was wanted.

SENEGA.—Five bales of indifferent quality were sold at 3s. per lb., net, being about 2d. to 3d. lower than the prices asked privately, business having been done at 3s. 2½d., net. To arrive, 3s. 2d. to 3s. 3d., c.i.f., is quoted.

SENNA.—Tinnevely sold at unaltered prices. The quality was indifferent, no good green leaf being offered. Fair bold greenish sold at from 3d. to 3½d.; middling leaf, at 2d. to 2½d.; and small common rusty leaf, 1½d. to 1¾d. per lb. Pods sold at from 1½d. to 2d. Four bales of yellowish broken Alexandrian leaf sold at 2¾d., and siftings at 1¾d.

In another catalogue fair broken Alexandrian leaf was limited at 3½*d.*, siftings at 2¼*d.*, and dark pods at 6½*d.*

SOY.—Good Chinese, duty paid, was obtainable at 1*s.* 7*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* per gal.

STICKLAC.—Lean woody Madras sold at from 5*s.* to 6*s.*

TONKA BEANS.—For 6 cases from small to bold fair black Para a bid of 1*s.* 3*d.* is to be submitted.

WAX, BEES'.—Jamaica was about 2*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. cheaper, only a small proportion of the offerings selling at 7*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for barely fair quality. Good descriptions were scarce. Eight cases of Rangoon sold at 5*l.* 10*s.*, and 2 bags Nyassaland at 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* Fair brown, part greyish Zanzibar was limited at 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; and fair Madagascar was taken out at 7*l.*

Heavy Chemicals.

The main feature of the heavy-chemical market at present is the firm all-round tone of values generally, and this condition seems quite likely to continue. The general demand at all main centres is only a quiet and rather disappointing one, not only as regards new business, but also against existing contracts. However, this is largely to be accounted for by the recent holidays, and a gradual change for the better is certain to occur.

ALKALI-PRODUCE generally in moderate demand for the season. Bleaching-powder steady at advanced rates. Ammonia alkali firm. Soda crystals have rather a steady tone. Caustic soda unchanged, and saltcake firm and dearer.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA is in brisk demand again at advanced prices. Nearest quotations at present are: Beckton forward, 12*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; Beckton terms, 12*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 12*l.* 15*s.*; London, 12*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; Leith, 12*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* to 12*l.* 15*s.*; and Hull, 12*l.* 15*s.*

ALUMINA PRODUCTS.—Demand in this branch has recently been a quieter one, but an improvement seems to be imminent. Values are still low, but they are maintained at recent rates. Crystal alum, lump, 5*l.* to 5*l.* 5*s.* per ton; lump in tisers, 5*l.* 5*s.* to 5*l.* 10*s.* per ton; and ground in bags, 5*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* 15*s.* per ton. Sulphate of alumina, ordinary strength, purest qualities and practically free of iron, 4*l.* 5*s.* to 4*l.* 15*s.* per ton in large casks, with usual allowances for bags and loose slabs. Aluminiferous, 50*s.* to 60*s.* per ton; and aluminous cake, 50*s.* to 55*s.* per ton, in accordance with condition and package. Hydrate of alumina, purest quality and high strength, Al₂O₃, 12*l.* to 12*l.* 10*s.* per ton in large casks. Hydrate of alumina, special pulp, 12*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* per cwt.; special pulp, dried and in lump, 37*s.* 5*d.* to 33*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; ground, 38*s.* to 33*s.* per cwt. Aluminate of soda, 35*s.* to 37*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., according to quantity and package; and second quality, 12*s.* to 13*s.* per cwt. Carbonate of alumina, 35*s.* to 37*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Chloride of alumina solution, 13*s.* to 14*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. in barrels.

The Liverpool Drug-market.

Liverpool, January 6.

ACID, TARTARIC.—Agents for foreign makers will only submit orders at advance prices, and some say their instructions are not to quote.

CASCARILLA.—A small parcel of bags and barrels offered at auction was bought in at 50*s.* and 60*s.* per cwt. respectively.

CASTOR OIL.—Good second Calcutta is firmly held at 2¼*d.* and 2½*d.* per lb., stocks being much reduced.

CARNAUBA WAX.—Grey is now held at 92*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. to 95*s.* per cwt.

CHILLIES.—There is a further arrival of Sierra Leone which will be put up at auction next week.

IRISH MOSS.—A small parcel has arrived and will be put up at auction next week, but extreme prices are expected to be paid.

HONEY.—Ten cases Californian have been sold at 40*s.*, and 107 barrels Chilean Pile II. at 19*s.* and Pile III. at 18*s.* 9*d.* per cwt.

German Drug-market.

Hamburg, January 5

Business is still very quiet, and navigation into the interior is partly hindered by ice.

ANISEED is firm, Russian on the spot being quoted 43*m.*, and Levant 39*m.* to 41*m.*, per 100 kilos.

BALSAM PERU is quoted 9½*m.* to 10*m.* per kilo.

CAMPOR (Refined) is very firm, with an upward tendency, at 460*m.* to 465*m.* per 100 kilos.

IPECACUANHA is quiet, but stocks are not large. Rio is quoted 12*m.* per kilo.

LYCOPODIUM is scarce and firm, prime quality is held at 515*m.* per 100 kilos.

MENTHOL.—Kobayashi, on the spot, is firm at 40*m.* per kilo. SPERMACEI is quiet but firm, at 220*m.* per 100 kilos.

PEPPERMINT OIL (Kobayashi) is quoted on the spot at 15*m.* per kilo, and HGH is firm, at 14*m.* per lb.

Arrivals.

The following drugs, chemicals, &c., have arrived at the principal ports of the United Kingdom from December 31, 1903, to January 4, 1904, inclusive: Acetate of lime (@ New York), 586; acid, boric (@ Paris), 25; acid, carbolic (@ Amsterdam), 15, (@ Rotterdam), 23; acid, oxalic (@ Rotterdam), 10; acid, salicylic (@ Rotterdam), 8; acid, sulphuric (@ Rotterdam), 19, (@ Amsterdam), 75; acid, tannic (@ Hamburg), 4; acid, tartaric (@ Barcelona), 6, (@ Valencia), 8, (@ Rotterdam), 21, (@ Marseilles), 4, (@ Rotterdam), 12; aloes (@ Bombay), 41; alumina sulphate (@ Ghent), 150, (@ Antwerp), 25; annatto (@ Madras), 37; antimony (@ Kobé), 161 cs. in tr.; arrowroot (@ St. Vincent), 245; arsenic (@ Hamburg), 20, (@ Melbourne), 125; asafetida (@ Bunder Abbas), 93 cs.; benzoin (@ Singapore), 49; bleaching-powder (@ Rotterdam), 59, (@ Hamburg), 104; Calabar beans (@ W.C. Africa), 2; canary-seed (@ Hamburg), 989; cardamoms, 87; cinchona (@ Lisbon), 64, (@ New York), 40; cinchona-alkaloids (@ Batavia), 10 cs.; citrate of lime (@ Messina), 9; cloves (@ Bombay), 700; cocculus indicus (@ Cochín), 133 in tr.; cod-liver oil (@ Christiania), 12; colocynth (@ Persia), 2; cream of tartar (@ Rotterdam), 8; cumin-seed (@ Hamburg), 50; drugs (@ Dieppe), 19, (@ Antwerp), 20; fenugreek-seed (@ Hamburg), 839; formaldehyde (@ Rotterdam), 20; ginger (@ Hong-Kong), 325; gum, unenumerated (@ Persia), 1,100 bgs. 293 cs. 16 pkgs., (@ Suez), 243; honey (@ Hamburg), 11; kola (@ W.C. Africa), 23; liquorice juice (@ Catania), 20 cs.; magnesia (@ Philadelphia), 20 cs.; menthol (@ Kobé), 8 cs., (@ New York), 10; nux vomica (@ Coconada), 50; oil, castor (@ Calcutta), 100 x ½ cs., (@ Marseilles), 138, (@ Coconada), 110; oil, cinnamon (@ Colombo), 4; oil, citronella (@ Galle), 16 cks.; oil, cod-liver (@ New York), 50; oil, eucalyptus (@ Adelaide), 25; oils, essential (@ Hong-Kong), 40, (@ Messina), 163, (@ New York), 94; oil, peppermint (@ Kobé), 30 cs. in tr., (@ New York), 4; o'ibanum (@ Bombay), 70; opium (@ Persia), 84; pot. caustic (@ Tréport), 4, (@ Calais), 12; pot. chlorate (@ Tréport), 20, (@ Gothenburg), 92; pot. cyanide (@ Paris), 50; pot. oxalate (@ Rotterdam), 24; pot. permang. (@ Hamburg), 20; saccharin (@ Antwerp), 2; saffron (@ Valencia), 1 cs.; sal ammoniac (@ Hamburg), 32, (@ Amsterdam), 40; sarsaparilla (@ Hamburg), 47, (@ Kingston), 3, (@ New York), 50; seedlac (@ Madras), 18; shellac, 1,354, button ditto 657; soda chlorate (@ Gothenburg), 220; soda phosphate (@ Breinen), 11; soy (@ Hong-Kong), 50; spermaceti (@ New York), 50; sugar of lead (@ Hamburg), 10; sugar of milk (@ Hamburg), 5; sulphur (@ Catania), 100 brls. 1,730 bgs., (@ Girgenti), 800 tons; tamarinds (@ Calcutta), 50; tartar (@ Messina), 16, (@ Naples), 846, (@ Rotterdam), 39; turmeric (@ Bombay), 25, (@ Madras), 70, (@ Calicut), 164; vinaccia (@ Messina), 29; wax, bees' (@ Boston), 10 cs., (@ Hamburg), 20, (@ Axim), 90; wax, Carnuba (@ Hamburg), 15; wood-spirit (@ Philadelphia), 83 dms.

Shellac.

In the course of a lengthy review of the shellac market during 1903, Messrs. Reynolds & Sellers state that there has been a good steady demand for all descriptions, the United States being the most prominent buyer, and the tendency throughout has been upwards. In regard to prices, no one anticipated that quotations of twenty-nine years ago would be almost recorded. It was on December 22, 1874, that second orange was sold at 13*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, and fine quality at 15*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; then the stock was between 16,000 and 17,000 cases. Fine and fine-second orange, being in very few hands, has been firmly held for extreme prices, and (when required) such have been obtainable, only limited parcels having come forward. Prices have not advanced in sympathy with the inferior qualities, and on several occasions have been particularly cheap compared with the TN grades. The highest spot-price paid for TN second orange was in December, when 300 cases were bought for the United States at 23*l.*s. An endeavour was made to secure and hold all the December "forward sales," and the price was fairly sustained during the first fortnight, but as the tenders slowly but surely passed round holders met requirements, thus causing a decline of several shillings before the holidays. Up to the end of July there has been only about 1,600 cases offered in public auction, of which not 500 sold, one-fifth part consisting of orange, since when nothing has been advertised.

Areca-blight in Ceylon.

According to the "Times of Ceylon" the areca-plantations in the Passara districts of Ceylon are being attacked by a pernicious form of blight, causing much loss to the owners. On their own remedial measures failing, the plantation-owners have communicated with Mr. Csruthers, the Government Mycologist. The latter has so far only been able to suggest a preventive line of treatment; the disease, however, remains unchecked.

THE production of olive oil in Cagliari, Sardinia, during 1902 was 515,010 gals., and in the province of Sassari 660,270 gals. was produced. The total is slightly in excess of the year 1901.

QUALIFIED; 24; tall; abstainer; thorough knowledge Photography; capable to take charge; quick, accurate Dispenser; disengaged beginning February; excellent references. Beale, West Cliff Pharmacy, Bournemouth.

ASSISTANT, speaking fluently English, French, German, Italian, Spanish; best London references; 16 months in West-end Pharmacy; good Dispenser and Prescriber; disengaged January 15. "H. M." (61/22), Office of this Paper.

WHOLESALE.

ASSISTANT; 24; Wholesale and Retail experience, all departments. "Chemist," Allerton, Bradford.

ASSISTANT; Wholesale or Retail; good references. "Rhel," 4 Oxford Road, Wallington, Surrey.

TRAVELLER; South Coast; salary, commission; excellent references. 58/19, Office of this Paper.

FOREWOMAN; disengaged; Soaps, Perfumes, Drugs, Druggery. "Croker" (62/26), Office of this Paper.

TRAVELLER (Eastern Counties) wants good side line, on commission. Auston, Whiting Street, Bury St. Edmunds.

YOUNG man seeks situation as Pill-maker; good references. "E. B.," Springfield, Queen's Road, South Norwood.

TRAVELLER (good all-round), desires engagement; Drugs, Ess. Oils, Sundries, &c. "W. J. B." (57/23), Office of this Paper.

TRAVELLER seeks re-engagement; Drugs, Sundries, or allied branches; 8 years' connection. 61/6, Office of this Paper.

ADVERTISER, 24, unqualified, disengaged, seeks situation; Wholesale or Retail; home or abroad. 59/20, Office of this Paper.

QUALIFIED, 11 years' Retail, desires Wholesale position; where interest could be obtained preferred. 51/21, Office of this Paper.

TRAVELLER; large connection Medical trade, South West, North; disengaged; first-class references. "W." (60/13), Office of this Paper.

TRAVELLER, many years' experience amongst Doctors and Veterinary Surgeons, desires representation of first-class house. 63/29, Office of this Paper.

BUYER, Correspondent, or any position of trust; Druggists' Sundries and Proprietary; well up in markets; London or Provinces. 61/18, Office of this Paper.

ENERGETIC young Scotsman (25) wishes London experience; 9 years' Wholesale and Export experience; references. "Scot" 63/4, Office of this Paper.

YOUNG man seeks situation in Wholesale house; Wet or Dry Counter; 5 years' experience; excellent references; moderate salary. Apply, 60/23, Office of this Paper.

TRAVELLER, with good connection amongst Chemists, would be pleased to hear of good berth, or would find capital for a Partnership in a good business. 15/23, Office of this Paper.

TRAVELLER, calling on Chemists, South London and suburbs; good sound references; connection. Send full particulars in first letter, "Integrity," 188 Falcon Road, Battersea, S.W.

SOUTH AFRICA.—Advertiser, returning in March to represent firm of high-class Manufacturers, is open to represent another concern of good standing. Apply, "Springfield" (3/74), Office of this Paper.

QUALIFIED Chemist, aged 28, height 5 ft. 9 in., desires position of trust in Country Wholesale, with view to Managership or Partnership; excellent references; bond if necessary. 55/3, Office of this Paper.

GENTLEMAN representing London Drug house desires to treat with really first-class house to jointly represent them and share expenses or salary; Sundries, Patents, Soap, Perfumery, Brushes, &c.; good salesman; many years on the road; first-class references. 63/16, Office of this Paper.

ADVERTISER, who has had 6 years' experience in Retail, nearly 2 years manager of Aërated-water manufactory, also some time maker of Chemists' proprietary articles and manager of warehouse, wishes position of trust in Wholesale or Aërated-water trade. Apply, 53/24, Office of this Paper.

THOROUGHLY enterprising and energetic gentleman (30), open to render his exclusive services in representing a thoroughly reliable and up-to-date firm; 13 years associated with Chemists and Druggists, Druggists, &c.; complete knowledge acquired; 12 years with one house. Apply, "Americanism," 33 Evering Road, N.

THIS WEEK'S "C. & D." IN BRIEF.

THE history of the 1783 Medicine-stamp Act is related under "Now and Then" (p. 87).

TOO STRONG LIME-WATER is the latest thing to bring chemists into trouble. A case is reported on p. 81.

FOR a chemist's window in Blackpool, 6l. a week, cash in advance, has been paid by a firm who had a display in it (p. 92).

THE NAMES of those who have passed the Major and Minor examinations in London and Edinburgh this month are printed on p. 91.

DR. AUGUSTE BÉHAL is the new President of the Paris Society of Pharmacy. His portrait and some notes on his career will be found on p. 75.

OUR obituary pages this week includes particulars of Sir Edward Hodgson (Dublin) and Mr. William Ward (Sheffield), whose deaths are recorded (p. 84).

THE COUNCIL OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND have referred the company-pharmacy question to committee, with the view to taking parliamentary action (p. 101).

APART from the position of camphor there is little of interest in the drug and chemical markets. English saltpetre and copper sulphate are dearer, and Chinese soy is firmer (p. 97).

MR. J. C. ADY, whose name was some years ago removed from the Medical Register, has been fined under the Medical Act for using the titles Doctor, and L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.E. (p. 77).

A BRADFORD CHEMIST'S ASSISTANT has been fined under the Pharmacy Act for selling laudanum. Two other assistants of the same chemist paid fines privately for similar offences (p. 77).

PART-TIME SITUATIONS rarely come under judicial consideration. This week we report a case heard by the Shoreditch Judge, in which an assistant succeeded in proving his right to a month's notice (p. 81).

MR. TOCHER'S SCHEME of territorial representation for the Pharmaceutical Council is gaining the favour of local associations, several of which have this week passed resolutions in support of it (p. 93).

IT is reported (by "Xrayser") that three distinguished pharmaceutical members of the London County Council are to be immured in the dungeons of Spring Gardens if they attempt to import methods of the further North (p. 87).

THE so accurate report of the recent conference at Somerset House in the C. & D. is explained by "Xrayser" on the electronic hypothesis and the interception of "delta"-rays at Cannon Street by a Marconi interceptor fitted with Edison's resonator (p. 87).

MR. JOHN PANHANS, the German dentist who turned his practice into a limited company, has, nevertheless, been fined a second time under the Dentists Act (p. 77). We comment upon the case as an example of one-man companies which the Pharmacy Act also may suffice to stop (p. 89).

AN important cod-liver-oil case under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts has been heard by Mr. Dickinson at Poplar. The Government analysts agreed with the public analyst, but the defence was such that the Magistrate decided not to proceed to conviction, awarding the prosecution costs (p. 79).

WOLVERHAMPTON chemists had a good technical meeting on January 6, when cod-liver oil, Pharmacopœia notes, and lanolin-preparations were the subjects. The last included formulae for a chapped-hands preparation and a hair-pomade—a circumstance which we mention because it is a good but a rare move in association meetings (p. 92).

MOCK SODA CRYSTALS are composed of sodium sulphate and a small percentage of carbonate. The fraud has been going on for a long time, but thanks to Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co., and the Merchandise-marks Act, the requisite exposure has commenced, and a new city firm, who imported the crystals from Belgium, has been fined (pp. 78 and 90).

THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS are advertising in this issue:

Northern College of Pharmacy.

Manchester College of Pharmacy, 225A and 227A Oxford Street, Manchester.

Edinburgh Central School, 26 Clyde Street, Edinburgh.

South London School of Pharmacy, 325 Kennington Road, S.E. Metropolitan College of Pharmacy, 160 to 162 Kennington Park Road, S.E.

London College of Chemistry, 323 Clapham Road, S.W.

London Chemists' Association.

NORTH-LONDON BRANCH.

A MEETING was held at Messrs. Idris's Offices, Pratt Street, Camden Town, N.W., on Thursday afternoon, January 14, Mr. T. H. W. Idris (President) in the chair. About thirty members were present. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. R. B. Betty), in a few preliminary remarks intimated that the lecture on "Photographic Apparatus" was only a portion of the whole. The second part of the lecture would be delivered at the South London Branch of the Association at The Horns, Kennington, in March. The annual dinner of the Association promised, he said, to be a great success. The work that the London Chemists' Association are doing is, he continued, of great benefit to the proposed Pharmacy Bill. If all chemists' associations in the country did the same, he prophesied with confidence that the Bill would become law this Session or the next.

It was announced that Mr. C. E. Pickering was too ill to attend, therefore his paper on

THE OUTDOOR SYSTEM,

was read by the Hon. Secretary. The paper compared the merits of the outdoor and of the indoor systems from the point of view of assistants. His experience was that the majority prefer the outdoor system; remuneration is not the only reason for the preference. There is a lack of comfort in indoor berths. The indoor assistant has generally to be at business by 8 A.M. Between that hour and ten he may get half an hour for a meal which is often disturbed, and is seldom of a substantial character. Bedrooms are often not all they should be. Moreover, he is often made to feel uncomfortable in his relations with the chemist's family. Of course there are exceptions, but they are few. The night bell is another bugbear of the indoor assistant, although its usefulness in cases of urgency is the only real argument in favour of the indoor system. The outdoor assistant not only begins work later in the morning, but the hour for dinner and the hour for tea give breaks from pharmacy. Mr. Pickering thought the outdoor assistant superior in many respects to his indoor *confrère*. More work could be got out of him, and, taking all the advantages of the outdoor system into consideration, there is little wonder it has become the more popular.

The President said in his time he had tried both systems, and his recollections of the indoor system were much the more pleasant. He thought Mr. Pickering was verging on the libellous in his description of the bedrooms supplied by chemists to their assistants. In his experience he had never met anything half so bad indoors as had been described. He was of opinion that the associations formed and influences produced by living with a chemist's family was often of much benefit to the assistant in after-life. The President then proceeded to enlarge on the humours and tragedies of night-bell calls.

Mr. Edwards said Mr. Pickering had, in his opinion, slandered indoor assistants when he suggested that they were inferior to their outdoor brethren.

Mr. Hornby said it was hardly worth while discussing the paper; and this seemed to be the general opinion.

Mr. V. H. C. Baskin, L.P.S.I., then read his paper on

PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS.

The paper was illustrated with demonstrations of the working of various cameras supplied by Messrs. G. Houghton & Son (Limited), High Holborn. The apparatus shown were the "Sanderson" (field and hand pattern), "Holborn" hand camera (three sizes), the "Ensign" roll film, two "Scouts," and a new slide for flat films called the "Endlo." The lecture was followed with keen interest, and on the motion of the President, supported by Mr. P. H. Burton, Mr. Baskin was heartily thanked.

CO-OPERATIVE BUYING

was down on the agenda to be dealt with by Mr. R. B. Betty, who stated, however, that he had had no time to prepare a paper, but had made only a few rough notes on the subject. He would deal with the matter in a more thorough manner at the South London meeting in March. From the notes which he read it appeared that Mr. Betty has a scheme for co-operation which he wishes to apply to the Association as a whole. His idea, as far as could be gathered, is that a member may buy a large quantity of any particular proprietary (in order to get the best terms) and let his fellow-members have the benefit of the discount. The buyer would have his name and address and the article he had purchased printed on the back of the Association's agenda-papers and any fellow-member who desired to buy at bottom prices would simply communicate with the first purchaser. Mr. Burton thought Mr. Betty's idea unworkable, and suggested that the discussion might be taken at the next South London meeting.

Miscellaneous.

MESSRS. J. T. LYON & Co., 75 Mark Lane, London, E.C., have been appointed agents for Messrs. Sicard Fils, Carbonel et Gazan, essential oil distillers, of Vallauris, near Grasse.

"QUACK MEDICINES, that is to say, preparations with titles which do not disclose their composition." This is Mr. Brudenell Carter's definition in his "Doctors and Their Work." He follows this up with a bitter attack on chlorodyne.

MESSRS. W. CHARITY & SONS, 14 and 15 Harp Lane, London, E.C., announce that the brand for Mr. Otto S. Jervell's Newfoundland non-freezing cod-liver oil will be N.F. The O.S.T. mark will apply to the Norwegian non-freezing only.

A CORONER'S OPINION.—Deborah Adler, a widow, aged fifty, two, who lived in Hanbury Street, Spitalfields, was stated at an inquest on January 14, to have died from diabetes and gangrene the latter being due to improper treatment of a foot. Evidence showed that she had had the foot "attended to" at a chemist's shop in Hanbury Street. This was denied by the chemist's assistant, but the coroner told him that there was "a liar somewhere." They had a right to sell things, but not to give advice.

WHO ARE THE CHEMISTS?—Last winter (says the "Daily Paper") a well-known firm of West end chemists invented a "dinner-pill," which was meant to be taken surreptitiously during a meal, as an aid to digestion. This year the pills are made up in the form of silver-coated bonbons, and are handed round to the diners in silver baskets immediately after the *entrée*. In some cases the diners are let into the secret, but the majority of those who have partaken of the pills have looked upon the bonbons as a new fad—and have been loud in praise, on the morning after, of the "excellent cooking" and the "perfect wines"!

"KOKO FOR THE HAIR."—On Wednesday, January 13, Mr. Justice Farwell, in the Chancery Division of the High Court, commenced the trial of an action brought by the Koko Maricopas Company (Limited) to restrain Messrs. Caleb Ramsey, Lungar & Cadman, 22 Laurence Lane, Cheapside, their servants and agents, (a) from passing off or enabling or assisting others to pass off any preparation for the human hair or similar preparation for the plaintiffs' preparation; (b) from selling or offering or exposing or advertising for sale, or procuring to be sold or otherwise disposing of any preparations for the human hair, or any similar preparations not of plaintiffs' manufacture, under or by means of the name of "Koko for the Hair," or under or by means of any other name which by reason of colourable imitation of the name of "Koko for the Hair," or otherwise, is calculated to lead to the belief that such preparation is the preparation of plaintiffs; (c) from in any manner infringing the plaintiffs' registered trade-marks numbered respectively 67,932, Class 3, and 67,933, Class 48. The plaintiffs further asked for the delivery or, at their option, the destruction of all labels, &c., in the possession or under the control of the defendants. There was also a claim for damages or an account of profits. The defendants relied upon an agreement dated March 15, 1888, between Cadman of the one part and Major Seth W. Herrick and Lungar of the other part (then trading as the Koko Maricopas Company), by which it was agreed that Herrick and Lungar should for a consideration communicate to Cadman a full and unreserved knowledge of ingredients in their various proportions, strength, and means employed to produce "Koko for the Hair," and that the trade-marks registered and then exclusively owned by Herrick and Lungar should, subject to a certain condition, become the property of Cadman for all and every country—Great Britain, Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Mexico, and South and Central American States excepted—meaning thereby that the secret mode, means, or principle employed should be communicated to the defendant Cadman so that he or his assigns might use and employ the trade-marks for "Koko for the Hair."

Mr. Upjohn, K.C., with whom was Mr. Arthur Sims, opened the case for the company, and called evidence in the first instance to show that "Koko for the Hair" was known in the market as the product of the plaintiff company or their predecessors in business. Mr. Arthur James Dodson, managing director of plaintiff company, gave evidence, which was continued on Thursday.

For the defence Mr. Cadman gave evidence.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, held that the agreement of 1888 between Herrick, Lungar, and Cadman was a subsisting agreement, that it was a contractual agreement with the grantors, but was not enforceable against their assignees, the present company. The injunction asked for by the plaintiff company must be granted, but was not to prejudice the rights which the defendants had under the agreement of 1888 to sell "Koko for the Hair" in any country other than those prohibited by the agreement, or to manufacture the preparation in this country.